

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

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Important Days

Date	Day	Theme/Others
October 1	International Day of the Older Persons	United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on December 14, 1990
October 1	World Vegetarian Day	North American Vegetarian Society in 1977 and endorsed by the International Vegetarian Union in 1978
October 1	International Coffee Day	International Coffee Organisation, set up in 1963 in London, first declared International Coffee day on October 1, 2015.
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence	On 15 June, 2007, General Assembly adopted a resolution
October 4	World Animal Day	Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet
October 5	World Teacher's Day	'Teachers at the Heart of Education Recovery United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 1994
October 5	Ganga River Dolphin's Day	Ganges River Dolphin was formally adopted as the National Aquatic Animal on 5th October 2009
October 5	World Habitat Day- 1st Monday of October	It was established in 1978 and has its headquarters at the UN office in Nairobi, Kenya. launched by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHSP) in 1989.
October 7	World Cotton day	There's more to cotton than you think
October 8	Indian Air Force Day	
2 nd Friday of October	World Egg Day	Eggs for all: Nature's perfect package
4 th to 10 th oct	World Investor Week	
October 9	World Postal Day	Innovate to Recover (Universal Postal Union started in 1874 in Switzerland)
October 10	World Mental Health Day	Mental health in an unequal world

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October 11	The International Day of the Girl Child	Digital generation. Our generation
October 12	World Arthritis Day	Don't Delay, Connect Today: Time2Work
October 15	World Student's Day	'Learning for people, planet, prosperity, and peace
October 15	International Day of Rural Women	Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All
October 15	World Standards Day	Standards for sustainable development goals - shared vision for a better world
October 16	World Food Day	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945. 'Safe food now for a healthy tomorrow'
October 16	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Building Forward Together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People and our Planet
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	UN General Assembly adopted in December 22, 1992
October 20	The International Chefs Day	Healthy Food for the Future
October 20	World Osteoporosis Day	Serve Up Bone Strength (It was launched in 1996)
October 21	Police Commemoration Day	
October 22	International Stuttering Awareness Day	Speak the change you wish to see
October 23	World Snow Leopard Day	It observed since 2014
October 24	International Day of Diplomats	The first International Day was celebrated in Brasilia on 24 October 2017
October 24	United Nations Day	founded on October 24th 1945
October 24	World Polio Day	Delivering on a Promise
October 24	World Development Information Day	The General Assembly in 1972 established World Development Information Day
October 27	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	Your Window to the World
October 28	International Animation Day	created in 2002 by the International Animated Film Association (ASIFA), an International

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		Animated Film Association, a member of UNESCO
October 29	International Internet Day	
October 29	World Psoriasis Day	

Important Banking News

RBI

RBI takes Indian Overseas Bank out of Prompt Corrective Action framework

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) removed Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) from the Prompt Corrective Action Framework (PCAF) as the performance of bank is compliant with the PCA parameters.
- This decision has been taken during the performance review of Indian Overseas Bank by the Board for Financial Supervision.
- With this, IOB committed to comply with the norms of Minimum Regulatory Capital, Net NPA (non-performing assets) and leverage ratio on an ongoing basis.

Background:

- The RBI had put IOB under the PCAF in October 2015 due to high NPAs and negative Return on Assets (RoA).
- IOB was barred from increasing risk-weighted assets.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is expected to keep key rates unchanged:

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) assessment of the evolving domestic and global macro-economic and financial conditions and the outlook, the MPC voted unanimously to **keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent**
- Amidst softening retail inflation, the Monetary Policy Committee is expected to keep key rates unchanged and maintain its accommodative stance to help sustain the growth momentum. Some experts believe that there could be steps announced to calibrate excess liquidity.
- Retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, eased to a four-month low of 5.3 per cent in August with moderation in food prices
- The MPC, chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, is set to meet between October 6 and 8 for the next bi-monthly review.
- The Reserve Bank had last cut the repo rate by 40 basis points in May 2020 but has since then maintained status quo on rates.

RBI Superseded Boards of Srei Firms to Start Bankruptcy Proceedings

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) superseded the Board of Directors of two Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) viz, Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL), due to governance issues and defaults in meeting their various payment obligations.

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- RBI has appointed the former chief general manager of Bank of Baroda (BoB), Rajneesh Sharma as an administrator of SIFL and SEFL.
- The superseding of the board of directors was done by RBI through the exercise of powers conferred under Section 45-IE (1) of the RBI Act, 1934.
- To assist Sharma, RBI has appointed a 3-member advisory committee of R. Subramaniakumar, T.T. Srinivasaraghavan, and Farokh N. Subedar.
- RBI also intends to shortly start the process of resolution of the two NBFCs under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Rules, 2019.

RBI keeps accommodative stance with unchanged key lending rates for eighth consecutive time

- The Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India has maintained a status quo on interest rates for the eighth consecutive time and retained the monetary stance as accommodative.
- Repo rate remains unchanged at four per cent while reverse repo rate is maintained at 3.35 per cent.
- Repo rate is the rate at which the Central Bank lends short-term money to banks
- The RBI has also maintained FY-22 GDP growth target at 9.5 per cent.
- The Central Bank sees Q2 FY-22 GDP growth at 7.9 per cent compared to 7.3 per cent earlier.
- That growth impulses were strengthening and inflation trajectory may be shifting downwards in contrast to initial expectations.

RBI Approved BSE Tech to Set up, Operate TReDS

- BSE Technologies Private Limited (BSE Tech), the wholly-owned subsidiary of BSE, has received an in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for setting up and operating the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) under the Payments and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

Addl.Info:

- Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), an industrial organisation, functioning under the Department of Defence Production of Ministry of Defence, Government of India (GoI), is the 1st government entity to adopt TreDS.

RBI hikes IMPS daily transaction limit to ₹5 lakh

- The Reserve Bank of India has announced a proposal to increase the per-transaction limit for the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh for channels other than SMS and IVRS.
- This will lead to further increase in digital payments and will provide an additional facility to customers for making digital payments beyond ₹2 lakh.
- The per-transaction limit for SMS and IVRS (interactive voice response) channels is ₹5,000.
- UPI records 365 crore transactions worth ₹6.54-lakh cr in September
- It will help large corporates and MSMEs bring in greater flexibility and obvious cost efficiency by eliminating manual efforts and errors accompanying these processes.

RBI empanelled Dhanlaxmi Bank as Agency Bank

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- **Thrissur-based Dhanlaxmi Bank has been empanelled as 'Agency Bank'** by the Reserve Bank of India to undertake **general banking businesses of Central and State governments on behalf of the RBI.**
- Dhanlaxmi Bank entered into agreement with the **RBI at the Department of Government and Bank Accounts (DGBA), Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai.**
- It is now authorized to undertake transactions related to government businesses such as revenue receipts and payments on behalf of the **Central and State governments, pension payments in respect of Central and State governments, works related to small savings schemes (SSS), collection of stamp duty through physical mode or e-mode,** and any other item of work specifically devised by the RBI as eligible for agency commission.

RBI extends three-year SLTRO facility to SFBs

- The Reserve Bank of India has extended the **three-year special long-term repo operations (SLTRO) facility for Small Finance Banks by two months till December-end 2021.**
- This facility, which is available at the **repo rate of 4 per cent, aggregating ₹10,000 crore** was announced by the **central bank in May 2021 to help SFBs provide last mile credit to individuals and small businesses.**
- Liquidity drawn from this facility has to be deployed by SFBs for fresh lending **of up to ₹10 lakh per borrower.**
- Recognising the persisting uneven impact of the pandemic on **small business units, micro and small industries,** and other unorganised sector entities, it has been decided to **extend this facility till December 31, 2021.**

RBI grants banking licence to Unity Small Finance Bank

- **The Reserve Bank of India has granted a banking licence to Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd (USFBL),** which was established jointly by the **Centrum Financial Services Ltd (CFSL) and Resilient Innovations Private Limited (BharatPe),** to carry on a SFB business in India.
- RBI had **accorded "in-principle" approval to CFSL,** a wholly owned subsidiary of Centrum Capital, on June 18 to set up a small finance bank (SFB).
- **The grant of banking licence to USFBL sets the stage for RBI to place in the public domain a draft scheme of amalgamation of PMC Bank with the SFB.**
- It is the first time ever that two partners are uniting equally to build a bank. The proposed business model is one of collaboration and open architecture, uniting all its stakeholders to deliver a seamless digital experience
- **Centrum's MSME and micro-finance businesses will be merged into USFBL.**

RBI Granted Licence to Centrum-BharatPe's United SFB; become 12th SFB of India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the **'Small Finance Bank' (SFB) licence to Centrum-BharatPe's 'Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd (USFBL)'** to carry on an SFB business in India.
- **USFBL is a consortium that was established jointly by Centrum Financial Services Ltd (CFSL), a subsidiary of Centrum Capital Limited (CCL), and Resilient Innovations Private Limited (BharatPe).**
- With the establishment of USFBL, the number of SFBs in India was increased to 12.
- Former State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Rajnish Kumar was appointed as the chairman of the BharatPe board.

Note

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- RBI Imposed Monetary Penalty of Rs 30 lakh on Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd, Pune, Maharashtra for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI.

Kerala Bank seeks RBI nod to collect NRI deposits

- Kerala Bank has sought the permission of the Reserve Bank of India to collect deposits from NRI's, eyeing the ₹1,50,000,000 crore NRI deposits credited to various commercial and PSU and private sector banks in the State.
- V N Vasavan, the State Cooperation Minister, a major share of this NRI deposit amount is being utilised for disbursing loans to big corporates outside the State and in speculative businesses in stock markets.
- Kerala Bank is aiming to utilise these NRI deposits for developing the basic infrastructure of the State.
- The bank will provide an opportunity for non-resident Keralites to be part of the development of the State and to intervene in its economy

RBI imposes penalty of 1 crore on SBI, 1.95 crore on Standard Chartered Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of one crore rupees on the State Bank of India and 1.95 crore rupees on Standard Chartered Bank.
- In different notifications issued from Mumbai by RBI, State Bank has been penalised for violating norms related to delay in reporting of fraud while Standard Chartered Bank has been penalised for violating norms related to customer protection and cyber security framework.
- It added that Standard Chartered Bank had shown deficiencies while crediting back the amount involved in unauthorised electronic transactions, not reporting cyber security incidents within the prescribed time period, authorising the direct sales agents to conduct KYC verification and failure to ensure integrity and quality of data submitted in 'Central Repository of Information on Large Credits.
- RBI, the action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered by the bank with its customers.

RBI Withdraw all Restrictions Imposed on Hindu Cooperative Bank; Authorised KVB to Collect Direct Taxes

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the exercise of power under sub-section (2) of Section 35 A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI withdrew all restrictions imposed on Hindu Cooperative Bank Limited, Pathankot, Punjab.

Addl.Info:

- RBI had issued 'Directions to stipulate certain restrictions on Hindu Cooperative Bank Ltd' in the exercise of powers vested under sub-section (1) Section 35 A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- The directions were modified from time to time and were last extended up to October 24, 2021.

Note:

- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1 lakh on KurlaNagarikSahakari (KNS) Bank Ltd., Mumbai, Maharashtra, for contravention of certain norms related to the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014.

RBI rule on recurring payments: Small businesses, start-ups feeling the heat

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- **Small businesses and start-ups running on a subscription model are losing out on users and timely payments due to the Reserve Bank of India's new rule on recurring payments.**
- For instance, the non-profit digital rights advocacy group, Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), which runs on a monthly donorship model, **lost nearly 70 per cent of its existing membership base of close to 423.**
- Under the new rules, **banks are required to inform customers in advance about recurring payments due**, and transactions would be carried following a nod from the customer. So, the transaction will not be automatic, **but will be done after authentication from the customer.**
- RBI's new payment rule has resulted in **major disruptions for businesses** – an avoidable one that has put **Indian start-ups at a disadvantage.** For an entrepreneur, continuity in business is absolutely critical.
- The manner in which the policy was implemented has wreaked havoc and has put Indian companies in a precarious position.

RBI imposes ₹1 crore penalty on Paytm Payments Bank

- The **Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)** and ₹27.78 lakh on **Western Union Financial Services for non-compliance** with certain directions.
- The RBI on examination of PPBL's application for issue of final Certificate of Authorisation (CoA), it was observed that it had submitted information which did not reflect the factual position.
- As this was an offence of the nature referred to in **Section 26 (2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, a notice was issued to PPBL.
- After reviewing the written responses and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, **the RBI determined that the aforementioned charge** was substantiated and warranted the imposition of a monetary penalty.
- Thereafter, the central bank by an order on October 1 **imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1 crore on PPBL.**
- Founded: 2010, Noida

RBI caps IPO funding by NBFCs at ₹1 crore per borrower

- **Non-banking finance companies (NBFC) cannot lend more than Rs 1 crore to investors seeking to buy stocks in initial share sales from April 1, 2022**, tightening capital adequacy and provisioning rules for last-mile lenders to reduce risks to the broader financial system.
- The Reserve Bank of India has announced a scale-based regulation of non-banking finance companies, **which include a ceiling on IPO funding per borrower as well as changes in the minimum net owned fund**, classification of non-performing assets, and capital requirements.
- **The RBI set a framework for NBFCs**, dividing them in **four distinct categories**, to bring regulatory parity with bank regulations. **These are Base Layer, Middle Layer, Upper Layer and Top Layer.**
- NBFCs marked as investment and credit firms, micro finance institutions and factoring companies will have to raise net owned funds - the sum total of equity capital and free reserves - to ₹10 crore by March-end, 2027, from the existing ₹2-5 crore.

RBI Introduced Revised Regulatory Framework for NBFCs – 'SBR'

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- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a revised regulatory framework for Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) named '**Scale Based Regulation**' (SBR) to regulate the NBFCs based on their size, activity, complexity, and interconnectedness within the financial sector.
- All the guidelines over **SBR would come into effect from October 01, 2022**, whereas the instructions related to the ceiling on **IPO (Initial Public Offer) funding would come into effect from April 01, 2022**.

About SBR Regulatory framework in Brief:

- Structure of NBFCs: Under the SBR framework, NBFCs are categorised into 4 layers as **Base Layer (NBFC-BL)**, **Middle Layer (NBFC-ML)**, **Upper Layer (NBFC-UL)**, and a possible **Top Layer (NBFC-TL)** based on the size, activity, etc.

RBI Issued Draft Directions to Implement Basel III framework for AIFIs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued draft directions for implementing **the Basel III capital adequacy norms for All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)** that are regulated by RBI viz, Exim Bank, NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development), National Housing Bank (NHB), and SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India).
- The draft directions have **consolidated the existing guidelines on exposure norms, classification, valuation and operation of an investment portfolio and resource raising norms issued to the AIFIs**. RBI has issued the directions in **the exercise of the powers conferred by Section 45 L of the RBI Act, 1934**.
- **Basel III strengthens the institution-level** i.e., micro-prudential regulation, with the intention to raise the resilience of individual financial institutions in periods of stress.

RBI has decided to allow FPIs to invest in debt securities issued by REITs, InvITs

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has decided to allow **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** to invest in debt securities issued by **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** and **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)**.
- The move is expected to provide much-needed **patient capital and liquidity to the new asset class**.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in the Union Budget, 2019, **had allowed FPIs to invest in REITs and InvITs**, but the enabling was yet to take place.
- The Central Bank has now amended the Foreign Exchange Management (Debt Instrument) Regulations, 2021 to allow such investments.

RBI has imposed ₹56-lakh penalty on Nainital Bank

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **₹56 lakh** on **The Nainital Bank Ltd (NBL)**, **Uttarakhand**, for **non-compliance with its directions relating to divergence in non-performing asset (NPA) accounts as well as asset classification and provisioning, and classification and reporting of frauds**.
- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**
- It has emphasised that this action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

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SBI

SBI and Indian Navy Launched NAV-eCash Card

- Indian Navy and State Bank of India (SBI) launched **SBI's NAV-eCash Card** onboard India's largest Naval Aircraft Carrier INS (Indian Naval Ship) Vikramaditya.
- C S Setty, Managing Director (Retail & Digital Banking), SBI and Vice Admiral R Harikumar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command have participated in the launch.
- The infrastructure at naval ships inhibits traditional payment solutions as there will be no connection in the high seas.
- **The NAV-eCash card has dual-chip technology that will facilitate both online and offline transactions.**
- It will overcome the difficulties faced by navy personnel onboard in handling physical cash during deployment of the ship at high seas.
- SBI also plans to introduce the same card in other naval ships and various defence establishments for creating a secured, convenient and sustainable payment ecosystem.

SBI extends partnership with TCS for another 5 years

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced that its long-standing partnership with State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest bank, has been extended for another five years** as the bank embarks on its next leg of growth based on the three pillars of technology, resilience and people.
- The extended partnership builds on a two-decades-long relationship between the two partners, that began with the implementation of the **TCS BaNCS core banking solution in 2001, the largest such transformational program of that era.**
- As part of the new contract, **TCS will continue to maintain and enhance SBI's application estate around core banking, trade finance, financial reporting, and financial inclusion with new features and functionality.**
- This will support the bank's ability to launch newer offerings and respond to business and regulatory changes.
- **TCS is helping build Bharat Craft – an omnichannel, online B2B e-commerce platform which would serve as a marketplace for MSMEs, jointly driven by SBI and the Government of India.**
- TCS collaborated with **SBI to plan and execute the simultaneous merger of five associate banks and Bharatiya Mahila Bank.**

SBI Extends Partnership with TCS for another 5 years

- **State Bank of India (SBI) extended its partnership with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for another five years.**
- Under this partnership, **SBI uses TCS BaNCS for which TCS maintain and enhance SBI's application for core banking, trade finance, financial reporting, and financial inclusion.**
- **TCS BaNCS was launched in 2001.**

Other SBI-TCS collaborations:

- TCS is helping build **Bharat Craft– an omnichannel, online B2B (Business to Business) e-commerce platform which would serve as a marketplace for MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises), jointly driven by SBI and the Government of India.**

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- Prior to that, TCS collaborated with SBI to plan and execute the merger of SBI's five associate banks and Bharatiya Mahila Bank.

SBI, UBI, PNB & Indian Bank picked up stakes in NARCL

- The State Bank of India (SBI), Union Bank of India (UBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Indian Bank have picked up more than 12% stake each in the proposed bad bank National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL).

Details of acquisition:

- The SBI and UBI have picked up a 13.27% stake each which represents a cumulative 3.88 crore shares in NARCL.
- The PNB has picked up a 12.06% stake which is around 1.8 crore shares in NARCL.
- The Indian Bank has picked up around a 13.27% stake, subscribing 1.98 crore equity shares for a cash consideration of Rs 19.80 crore.

Note:

- The acquisition is expected to be completed by March 2022.
- The lenders have subscribed to the equity shares of NARCL at Rs 10 per share.

SBI General Insurance ties up with Google Pay for health insurance

- SBI General Insurance has collaborated with Google Pay to provide its General Health Insurance and government-based Arogya Sanjeevani to be purchased through the application.
- The insurance policies can be purchased on Google Pay Spot, which is a visual code akin to the QR code that can be installed on physical locations.
- The Spot acts as a virtual kiosk of sorts for handling SBI based insurance transactions.
- The pandemic has boosted the usage of digital platforms for various needs and at their expectations from financial solutions have also matured.
- This collaboration is yet another endeavour to address this growing need for health insurance

World Bank

World Bank Retained India's GDP Growth Forecast for FY22 at 8.3%

- As per the report, the Indian economy is South Asia's largest economy, and its growth in FY22 is expected to be aided by an increase in public investment and incentives to boost manufacturing.
- World Bank released its report on South Asia Economic Focus titled 'Shifting Gears: Digitization and Services-Led Development' and has unchanged India's GDP growth forecast for FY22 to 8.3 percent from its earlier estimate in June 2021.

About World Bank:

The World Bank Group consists of 5 organizations:

- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- The International Development Association (IDA) (Together, IBRD and IDA make up the World Bank)
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC)

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- The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

Other Banking News

UPI records 365 crore transactions worth ₹6.54-lakh cr in September:

- Digital payments continued to register robust growth in September amidst the festival season and normalisation of economic activities.
- **The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) registered 365 crore transactions worth ₹6.54-lakh crore** in September, as per data released by the **National Payments Corporation of India**
- The UPI platform had clocked 355 crore transactions amounting to ₹6.39-lakh crore in August.
- This was the third consecutive month **where UPI transactions remained well above the 300-crore mark.**
- **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) also registered a rise in transactions and processed 38.44 crore** payments of ₹3.24-lakh crore in September. As many as 37.79 crore transactions amounting to ₹3.18-lakh crore took place through IMPS

SEBI Board Approved List of Key Amendments, Initiatives

- The board of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) **under its board meeting issued frameworks for Gold Exchange, social stock exchange, delisting framework, and superior voting rights shares and approved some amendments**

Stellapps, Airtel Payments Bank partner for Cashless Fund Transfer to Small Dairy Farmers

- Dairy-tech startup Stellapps and Airtel Payments Bank have joined hands to enable cashless payment transfers to small dairy farmers.

Need of this partnership:

- Farmers have been facing a challenge of long travel to the nearest ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) or bank branch for withdrawing cash.
- Now under this partnership, stellapps milk collection centers will act as banking points which will enable farmers to open a bank account, withdraw and deposit cash, earn interest on savings, access Aadhaar enabled payments, get government pension schemes, and make bill payments.
- This project will be initiated **in Uttar Pradesh (Varanasi & Kanpur) and Madhya Pradesh (Gwalior).**
- These centres will be powered **by mooPay (Stellapps fintech platform) with** access to ecosystem partnerships to assist in farm improvement, animal healthcare, and nutrition services.

NTPC gained nearly 3% on ₹15,000 crore asset monetisation plan by 2024

- Shares of public sector power giant **NTPC gained nearly 3 per cent during the morning trade on reports of the company's plans to raise ₹15,000 crore by 2024** through the listing of its three units: NTPC Renewable Energy, North Eastern Electric Power Corp (NEEPCO) and NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam.

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- NTPC is planning to sell shares in NTPC Renewable Energy within a year. Meanwhile, it is planning initial public offerings of **Neepco and NTPC NVVN by March 2024**
- The NTPC Renewable Energy's **target will be to have a minimum of 10 gigawatts** of generation capacity by the time.

AU SFB, NABARD collaborates to boost rural development in Rajasthan

- **Private sector AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) signed a pact with the National Bank for Rural and Development (NABARD) to boost ongoing rural development initiatives in Rajasthan.**

Objective

- The initiatives will benefit farmers, **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), rural artisans, agri-entrepreneurs, and agri-startups in the State.**
- The partnership helps to improve the rural prosperity of the state by various ongoing initiatives and lending facilities.
- This lending facilities would enhance the agriculture and rural development in the state.

AIIB Grants USD 356.67 mn Loans for Chennai Metro; India Becomes Largest Beneficiary of AIIB

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will provide loan assistance of **USD 356.67 million (~Rs.2.65 lakh Crore) for the expansion of Chennai Metro Rail system, Tamil Nadu (TN), India.**
- With this Investment, **AIIB has invested a total of USD 6.7 billion making India its largest beneficiary.**

Chennai Metro Rail Project:

- AIIB will invest in the **phase 2 of the project** that involves construction of a new corridor in Chennai's Metro Network.
- **The project is aligned with AIIB's mandate** to support high-quality and sustainable infrastructure.
- It will promote **integrated economic and transport sector growth** in Chennai.
- It will also **reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** which further led to reducing carbon footprint

YES Bank loan increases 3.6% and deposits rise 30%

- **YES Bank released 3.6 per cent increase in its loans and advances, to Rs 1.72 lakh crore from Rs 1.66 lakh.**
- The bank's deposits also grew by 30.1 per cent to Rs 1.76 lakh crore at the end of the second quarter this fiscal, as against Rs 1.35 lakh crore a year ago. **CASA deposits increased by 54.3 per cent on an annual basis to Rs 52,029 crore**
- The bank's **credit-to-deposit ratio was 97.9 per cent** as against 122.9 per cent. The liquidity coverage ratio was 113.1 per cent at the end of the second quarter this fiscal, versus 107.3 per cent.

WTO upgrades global trade growth forecast to 10.8% in 2021, 4.7% in 2022

- The **WTO has upgraded its forecast for global merchandise trade volume growth to 10.8 per cent in 2021 and 4.7 per cent in 2022** from the previous predictions of 8 per cent and 4.7 per cent respectively.
- The biggest downside risks come from the pandemic itself as only **2.2 per cent of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine**
- India's goods exports in **April–September 2021 were at \$197.11 billion**, an increase of 56.92 per cent over exports in the same period last year, and an increase of 23.84 per cent

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- If all projections, both on trade and economic growth, are met, in the final quarter of 2022, Asia's merchandise imports will be 14.2 per cent higher than earlier

Fino Payments Bank gets Sebi nod to float IPO

- Markets regulator Sebi has given its nod for the initial public offering of **Fino Payments Bank**, which is looking to raise around Rs 1,300 crore.
- Besides, **Kerala-based Popular Vehicles and Services Ltd** has received approval from the watchdog for an **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**.
- The observation letter for **Fino Payments Bank IPO** was issued, while that for the share sale of **Popular Vehicles and Services** was issued
- Fino Payments Bank's IPO includes a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 300 crore and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of 15,602,999 equity shares by promoter Fino Paytech.
- The IPO is estimated to be worth Rs 1,300 crore.

Srei Infrastructure Finance hits 5% lower circuit as RBI supersedes company board:

- Shares of **Srei Infrastructure Finance** were locked in the lower circuit filter of 5 per cent at Rs 8.17 after the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** superseded the board of the company, which will be taken for insolvency proceedings owing to governance concern and payment defaults
- The stock of the non-banking finance company (NBFC) has slipped 56 per cent from its 52-week high level of Rs 18.39 touched on June 23, 2021.
- The Reserve Bank has superseded the Board of Directors of **SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL)** and **SREI Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL)**, owing to governance concerns and defaults by the aforesaid companies in meeting their various payment obligations.
- **The Reserve Bank also intends to shortly initiate the process of resolution of the above two NBFCs under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency and Liquidation Proceedings of Financial Service Providers and Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rules, 2019 and would also apply to the NCLT for appointing the Administrator as the Insolvency Resolution Professional.**

Acuite Ratings Became 1st Indian CRA to Join UN Supported ESG Initiatives

- Acuite Ratings & Research associated with the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), a **United Nations (UN)-backed initiative that deals with ESG (Environmental Social Governance) credit risk.**
- Acuite became the **1st Indian credit rating agency (CRA)** to sign an UN-supported initiative for the integration of ESG factors with credit risk and rating criteria.
- ESG is supported by over 170 investors (with nearly US\$ 40 trillion in collective assets under management) and 27 CRAs over the world.
- **Fitch, Moody's, S&P Global, and Kroll Bond are among others**, which are existing signatories of PRI.
- In January 2021, Acuite set up subsidiary '**ESG Risk Assessments & Insights**' to make assessments for investors and corporates.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

IDBI Bank signs Co-Lending Agreement with U GRO Capital

- U GRO Capital has signed a co-lending agreement with the IDBI (Industrial Development Bank of India) Bank to provide credit support to MSMEs (Micro Small Medium Enterprises) at affordable interest rates.
- The agreement will provide digital support of U GRO Capital's platform driven by a Data Tripod– which consist of GST (Good and Services tax), banking and bureau.

Seychelles' Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) programme launched in partnership with India

- On Oct 04, 2021, Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB), a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched its programme in Seychelles.
- India has been selected as the partner administration for this programme & The country will provide its tax experts to support the initiative.
- The focus of the 12-month program will be on transfer pricing matters of the tourism and financial services sectors.

Aim :

- To aid Seychelles in strengthening its tax administration by transferring technical know-how and skills to its tax auditors through sharing of best audit practices.
- This is the sixth TIWB program in which India has supported by providing tax experts.

Bank Of Baroda cuts home loan rate by 25 bps

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has announced a 25 basis points reduction in its home loan interest rates, with the minimum rate now starting at 6.50 per cent against 6.75 percent earlier.
- This special rate, which is effective from October 7, 2021, till December 31, 2021, is available for customers applying for fresh loans and those seeking loan transfer or refinancing their existing loans.
- It has reduced the home loan interest rate with the onset of festive season and to make home buying more affordable for customers.
- Nil processing fee on home loan was already on offer and has been extended till December-end 2021

ESAF SFB Launched Current account 'Supreme' for NRIs

- ESAF Small Finance Bank (SFB) has launched 'Supreme', a Current account for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
- The service for NRI's will be available at 277 branches across Kerala out of the total 550 branches pan India.
- The bank provides an enhanced ATM cash withdrawal limit of Rs 50,000/day, a Point of Sale (POS) transaction limit of Rs 80,000/day and an e-commerce transaction limit of Rs 20,000/day in India.
- It has over 17,940 Non-Resident Savings Bank accounts from 121 countries globally and began offering NRIs savings bank in June 2018 and current accounts in May 2021.
- As of March 31, 2021, the bank's deposits from NRIs were about Rs 2019.15 crore representing 22.44 percent of the bank's total deposits.

IREDA inks pact with NEEPCO to assist to develop renewable projects

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) to assist in developing renewable projects and raising funds.
- The MoU was signed by IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar Das and NEEPCO CMD Vinod Kumar Singh.

Objective of the collaboration

- IREDA will take up techno-financial due diligence of renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation projects for NEEPCO.
- It will also assist NEEPCO in developing an action plan to create and acquire renewable energy projects for the next five years
- The deal helps in achieving the government's target of reducing carbon emission to 33 per cent by 2030.
- IREDA and NEEPCO will work together to promote further progress on renewable energy development and to address climate change.

Note:

- Earlier, IREDA has signed MoUs with SJVN, NHPC and TANGEDCO.

Additional information

- IREDA and NEEPCO are under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and Ministry of Power, respectively.

Centre has released Rs 40,000 crore loans to the states for GST shortfall

- The Centre has released **Rs 40,000 crore to states and UTs to compensate for the shortfall in GST revenues, taking the total amount released** as loan so far this fiscal year to Rs 1.15 lakh crore.
- The ministry of finance has released an amount of Rs 40,000 crore to states and UTs with legislature under the back-to-back loan facility to meet **the shortfall in GST Compensation.**
- During the meeting of the GST council, which was held on May 28, the government had decided to **borrow ₹ 1.59 lakh crore in the current fiscal to release** to states on a back-to-back basis to help them meet their GST shortfall.
- The amount of **₹ 1.59 lakh crore is over and above the compensation in excess of ₹ 1 lakh crore** which is to be released to states during 2021-22 and is based on cess collections.

Coal Crunch in India

- **India's thermal power plants are facing a severe coal shortage**, with coal stocks having come down to an average of four days of fuel across an increasing number of thermal stations.
- Economy recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic coupled with supply issues have led to the current coal shortage.
- Increase in demand leading the share of thermal power in India's power mix **increasing to 66.4% from 61.9% in 2019.**

Visa Launched India's 1st CoF Tokenization Service for Merchants

- Global payments technology firm, **Visa in partnership with Juspay launched India's 1st Card-on-File tokenization (CoFT) services for e-commerce players such as Grofers, BigBasket, and MakeMyTrip.**
- The CoFT service will provide a safe, secure and seamless environment for digital payments.
- It was launched in line with Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recently **issued CoFT guidelines which mandated replacing actual card data with encrypted digital tokens.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Addl.Info:

- In September 2021, **RBI extended the scope of tokenization from device-based tokenization to card-on-file tokenization (CoFT) services.**
- It permitted card issuers also to act as **token service providers (TSP)** (Earlier card networks were only allowed to act as TSPs).
- The facility of tokenization could be offered by the TSPs only for the cards issued by / affiliated to them.
- **Note:**TSP – It is an entity that tokenizes the actual card details and de-tokenizes them whenever required.

NABARD Sanctioned Rs 303 Crore to Odisha for 24 Bridge Construction

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) sanctioned assistance of **Rs 303 crore under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to the Government of Odisha for the construction of 24 bridges** in the state.
- The rural infrastructure projects will **improve connectivity for 24.13 lakh people in 823 villages across 13 districts of the state.**
- The assistance was provided based on the **priority fixed by Odisha for developing rural infrastructure for drinking water supply, irrigation, and connectivity.**
- The bridge construction will support the rural economy by improving the livelihoods of people.
- So far, **NABARD has sanctioned around Rs 1,796 crore under the RIDF 2021-22.**

SEBI Revised – Norms of MFs on RFQ; REITs, InvITs Regulations on Exit Option

- As per the recommendation of the **Mutual Fund Advisory Committee (MFAC)**, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has revised the norms pertaining to minimum percentages of monthly trades to be carried out by mutual funds (MFs) on the Request for Quote (RFQ) platform of stock exchanges.
- SEBI has directed MF to undertake (on monthly basis) **at least 25 percent of their total secondary market trades by value in corporate bonds and 10 percent of their total secondary market trades by value in Commercial papers by placing/seeking quotes through one-to-many mode on the RFQ platform of stock exchanges.**

SEBI Modified REITs, InvITs Regulations on Exit Options:

- SEBI has also modified REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts) and InvITs (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) regulations with respect to exit options for dissenting unit holders in various scenarios, including acquisition and change in sponsors.
- Under different cases, the exit option price would be enhanced by an amount equal to a sum determined at the rate of **10 per cent per annum for the period between the first notice date and the second notice date.**

Federal Bank Tie-up with CredAvenue for Securitisation platform

- Federal Bank has partnered with **CredAvenue for Portfolio management of their Securitization Book and implemented CredPool**, an institutional debt platform of CredAvenue.
- Through the technology platform of CredAvenue, Federal bank could digitally monitor their asset-backed securities (ABS) and mortgage-backed securities (MBS) pool assets efficiently.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- Through the partnership, the bank has automated the end-to-end processes for direct assignments of retail portfolios.
- The platform helps banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC's) to meet existing and new regulatory guidelines pertaining to securitisation and direct assignment.
- CredAvenue provides customized solutions based on each bank/lender's requirements for their portfolio management.

Bank credit to grow at 7.5- 8.0 percent for FY'22: CARE Ratings

- The outlook for bank credit growth is expected to be in the range of 7.5 per cent to 8.0 per cent for FY22 on the back of a low base effect, economic expansion, extended Emergency Credit (ECLGS) support, and retail credit push
- The medium-term prospects look promising with diminished corporate stress and increased provisioning levels across banks. Retail loan segment is expected to do well as compared with industry and service segments.
- To attract borrowers several banks have slashed the home loan interest rates as a special offer in the festive season.
- State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Kotak Mahindra Bank have reduced their home loan rates by 45 bps, 25 bps, and 15 bps, respectively
- Similarly, foreign banks have also started to pitch for home loans at lower interest rates. HSBC India reduced home loan interest rates by 10 bps to 6.45 per cent.

Bank of Maharashtra has launched the digital lending platform for retail loans

- Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has launched a Digital Lending Platform which will enable its current and prospective customers to avail home and car loans through a paperless process at the convenience of their place and time of choice.
- The platform provides 'in-principle approval' for home loans and car loans instantly on filling in the required information digitally without human intervention,
- Customers can avail the digital lending facility by visiting the bank's website. The bank underscored that the platform is capable of validating KYC, CIBIL and financial information of the loan applicant and provide 'in-principle approval' in a hassle-free manner.
- The Bank has taken several measures to strengthen its digitisation process internally, thereby facilitating delivery of hassle-free services.

Fitch Ratings Revised India's FY22 GDP growth Estimate to 8.7% from 10%; FICCI Raised India's GDP Growth in FY22 to 9.1% from 9%

- Fitch Ratings, an American credit rating agency, in its latest 'APAC (Asia-Pacific) Sovereign Credit Overview 4Q21' has reduced India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast for FY22 to 8.7 percent from 10 percent.
- It has increased the growth forecast for FY23 to 10 percent from an earlier estimation of 8.5 percent.
- It expects the APAC growth to recover to 6.3 percent in 2021 and 5.3 percent in 2022 from 0.8 percent contraction in 2020.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- It has also retained the India's BBB-/Negative sovereign rating due to a sharp drop in public finances due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PNB Launched '6S Campaign' Under Customer Outreach Programme

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched the "6S Campaign" under customer outreach programme to offer financial services at a concessional rate during festival season.
- The campaign encapsulates various schemes such as Swabhiman, Samruddhi, Sampark and Shikhar, Sankalp and Swagat.
- Objective is to create awareness about the development of financial services in India.
- To accelerate the credit growth to improve the penetration of social security schemes and drive digital banking.

Addl.Info:

Features of "6S Campaign":

- Under the Swabhimaan, the bank aims to promote the financial inclusion agenda through deepening the penetration of 3 social security schemes pertaining to the insurance and pension sector.
- The 3 schemes are Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, and Atal Pension Yojana.
- Through the Samruddhi scheme, PNB aims to drive credit outreach for the agricultural sector.
- This will cover all the agricultural credit products like KCC, gold loans and investment credit.
- Under Shikhar, Sankalp and Swagat schemes, the bank has planned special rates of interest to drive credit offtake in the retail and MSME Sector.
- The bank has also identified focused products and customer segments for targeted outreach in line with the strategic agenda of PNB.
- To ensure access to affordable credit for MSMEs in India, PNB has also deepened the concessions for various selected products in line with the "One District- One Product policy".

Axis Bank unveils open APIs to help customers use integrated services

- Axis Bank has launched open APIs (Application Programming Interface) to facilitate its retail and corporate customers/partners to use banking services integrated across partner platforms.
- The API Banking portal has a suite of API products covering 200 plus retail APIs across cards, deposits, accounts, loans, 51 corporate APIs across payments, trade, collections, bill payments as well as cross-cutting APIs
- Further, the APIs will allow Axis Bank's banking solutions to get embedded via direct integration with the customers' digital systems, without the need for a net banking interface.
- Sameer Shetty, President and Head – Digital Business & Transformation, Axis Bank, has announced these latest API banking offerings, look forward to collaborate and co-create with partners, to offer an enhanced user experience and simplify their day-to-day operations

Around 1.26 bn people at High Ecological Risks: 2nd ETR 2021 by IEP

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The 2nd edition of 'Ecological Threat Report (ETR) 2021: Understanding ecological threats, resilience and peace' was released by the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP).
- As per it, around 1.26 billion people across 30 countries are suffering from both extreme ecological risk and low levels of resilience.
- The 11 countries with the worst ETR score are Afghanistan, Niger, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Burundi, Guatemala, Mozambique, Pakistan, Angola and Yemen.
- By 2050 the global demand for food is expected to increase by 50%.

Shivalik Small Finance Bank partners with Go Digit Insurance

- Shivalik Small Finance Bank announced a strategic partnership with Bengaluru-based insurtech company, Go Digit General Insurance, to provide an array of instant, easy-to-understand insurance products through the bank's network of branches across India.
- This will include health insurance plans, motor insurance, and home and shop insurance.
- This partnership will enable over 4.5 lakh customers of Shivalik Small Finance Bank to instantly access and purchase from Digit's list of offerings, through paperless processes, in real time.
- This partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank comes at a time when we are looking to expand our reach to newer markets with an aim to aid insurance penetration.
- The bank has a strong foothold in the northern states of the country and this association will help the bank's customers in getting insured from a partner that believes in simplicity, transparency and hassle-free settlement of claims

AUM of NBFCs to rise 18–20% y-o-y this fiscal: Crisil Ratings

- Assets under management (AUM) of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), which primarily offer loans against gold, are expected to rise 18–20 per cent to ₹1.3 lakh crore this fiscal against ₹1.1 lakh crore in FY21, according to Crisil Ratings.
- The credit rating agency analysed this growth would be despite a contraction in the first quarter, when pandemic-driven lockdown measures hindered branch operations and kept potential borrowers away.
- The agency has demand for gold loans from micro enterprises and individuals — to fund working capital and personal requirements, respectively — has increased with a pick-up in economic activity and the onset of the festive season, which coincides with the easing of lockdown restrictions by several States.
- With leverage being low and pre-provision profitability remaining strong, Crisil Ratings expects the overall credit profile of gold-loan NBFCs to remain stable.

IMF retains India's growth forecast for FY22 at 9.5%

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has retained India's GDP at 9.5 per cent for the current fiscal i.e 2021 -22 while cutting forecasts for the global economy by 5.9 per cent for the year 2021.
- The Indian economy recorded growth of 7.3 per cent during FY 2020-21.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- **World Economic Outlook: Recovery During a Pandemic Health Concerns, Supply Disruptions, and Price Pressures'**, the report also maintained growth outlook for next fiscal (2022-23) at 8.5 per cent.
- Earlier, in July, the Fund had cut the growth forecast for the current fiscal by 300 basis points but raised the projection for next fiscal by 160 basis points.
- IMF's projection for the current fiscal is similar to RBI's and S&P growth projection of 9.5 per cent. However, it is higher than Fitch's estimate of 8.7 per cent and World Bank's estimate of 8.3 per cent.
- Various other agencies have projected growth rate of 8.2- 9.5 per cent except Asian Development Bank which expects a double digit growth rate (10 per cent) for the current fiscal. OECD projection is also at the higher side with 9.7 per cent.

PhonePe Tie-up with NBBL Launched Recurring Payment Link – ClickPay

- The digital payment platform PhonePe has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) and launched a unique payment link named 'ClickPay' to enable customers to make recurring online bill payments.

Features of ClickPay:

- **Two-step process:** The recurring payment link which will be sent by the biller (on clicking the link) will lead the customer directly to the payment page for paying the bill amount instantly.
- This feature will facilitate the customers as it will overcome the need for remembering the unique identifiers and account details associated with making bill payments.
- It will also reduce the errors that are occurring due to manual inputs during bill payments.
- Using PhonePe the users could send and receive money, recharge mobile, data cards, pay at stores, make utility payments, make investments, buy gold, etc.
- **Note –** In April 2021, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) formed its wholly-owned subsidiary NBBL to offer recurring payment services and transferred all its Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) transaction mandates to it.

PayPal signs MoU with IIFT to launch India Digital Trade Facilitation Forum

- Digital payments firm PayPal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) to increase the knowledge base of Indian micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- It will be done through the launch of India Digital Trade Facilitation Forum (IDTFF) for MSMEs.

What will IDTFF do

- IDTFF will educate, guide, and raise awareness amongst MSMEs about marketing, scaling, digitalization and exports through masterclasses.
- This will help them to expand their consumer base and reach a global audience.
- Virtual webinars will also be hosted with industry experts, traders and policymakers on ongoing challenges.

Saraswat Bank partners with Axis Securities to Integrate Banking with Investments

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- Saraswat Cooperative Bank Ltd. (Saraswat Bank) has partnered with Axis Securities to offer its customers investing services through a 3-in-1 account.
- The facility will integrate savings bank account maintained by the co-operative bank with the demat and trading account offered by Axis Securities, which is a subsidiary of Axis Bank.

Objective:

- To make investments simple and accessible to all.
- This facility will make it easier for customers to transfer funds quickly, reduce paperwork and most importantly, provide a comprehensive platform to invest in various investment instruments like

Indian Bank and Fisdom Joined Hands for Digital Wealth Management Products

- Indian Bank made a tie up with a fintech company Fisdom for its mobile banking app to manage the new digital wealth management products.
- Fisdom offers financial products, such as mutual funds, insurance and National Pension Scheme (NPS) on its platform.
- Indian Bank is the seventh-largest public sector bank in India, following the merger with Allahabad Bank.
- This partnership makes the customers to invest in pension funds and digital gold and even file income tax returns online.

IOB Joined with TN Govt's IFHRMS

- Indian Overseas Bank is now integrated with TN Govt's IFHRMS (Integrated Finance Human Resource Management System) portal designed for collection of all treasury receipts.
- With this, Indian Overseas Bank is now authorized to collect all the receipts of Tamil Nadu Government under IFHRMS portal through both offline and online.
- IFHRMS portal is developed to improve operational efficiency by integrating Human Resources and Financial services.
- Indian Overseas Bank has also joined Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in promoting pension and retirement planning.

PNB Housing shelves ₹ 4,000-cr share sale plan to Carlyle Group, other investors

- PNB Housing Finance Limited (PNBHFL) has called off its proposed ₹ 4,000 crore share sale plan to Carlyle Group and other marquee investors including General Atlantic and Ares SSG, citing protracted delays and uncertainty over regulatory approvals required for the preferential issue.
- PNBHFL decided not to proceed with the proposed preferential issue and therefore will now evaluate other alternatives to raise capital.
- Under the proposed deal, Pluto Investments, an affiliated entity of Carlyle Asia Partners IV and Carlyle Asia Partners had agreed to invest upto ₹ 3,185 crore through a preferential allotment of equity shares and warrants, at a price of ₹ 390 per share.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The Competition Commission of India had in early August approved (deemed approval under green channel) the Carlyle Group led ₹ 4,000 crore equity investment transaction in PNBHFL even as SAT was then yet to pronounce its verdict on the valuation controversy

Bank of India announced the rates cut on home loan, vehicle loan interest rates

- Bank of India (BoI) has announced a 35 basis points (bps) reduction in home loan interest rate and a 50 bps reduction in vehicle loan interest rate.
- The new interest rates are **effective from October 18, 2021 till December 31, 2021**.
- Following the reduction, home loan interest rates will start at **6.50 per cent** against the current rate of 6.85 per cent and vehicle loan interest rates will start at **6.85 per cent** against 7.35 per cent. **One basis point is equal to one-hundredth of a percentage point.**
- This special rate, which is part of the festive offer, is available for customers applying for fresh loans and also for those seeking transfer of loans, the public sector bank said in a statement.
- Processing charges have also been waived for both home and vehicle loans **till December-end 2021**.

Vested Finance Partnered with SBM Bank to Facilitate Forex Transfer

- Vested Finance, a platform for investing in foreign stocks for Indians has partnered with SBM Bank, the Indian subsidiary of State Bank of Mauritius and launched a new solution named 'Vested Direct' for facilitating forex transfers at low costs.
- Using Vested Direct Investors could open a **free-of-cost, no-minimum-balance savings** account with SBM Bank funds.

ADB Expanded 2019–2030 Climate Finance Ambition to \$100 Billion

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) increased its ambition to deliver climate financing to its Developing Member Countries (DMCs) from 2019–2030 by \$20 billion to \$100 billion.
- Objective is to support DMCs that are facing challenges under COVID-19 and the climate crisis.

Background:

- In 2018, ADB committed to making its own climate financing of around \$80 billion by 2030 and also to ensure at least **75 percent of the total number of its operations support climate action**.
- The current announcement increased this financing commitment.
- ADB forecasts the overall climate financing from its own **resources** in 2019–2021 to reach about \$17 billion.

NABARD and Government has signed a Trust deed to promote farmer produce organisations

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) had a ₹ 1,000-crore dedicated fund for providing **credit guarantees** to 10,000 farmer produce organisations (FPOs) will be housed in "Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for FPOs" (CGFTFPO) under the trusteeship of NABSarakshan Trustee Private Limited (NTPL).
- The Trust has been registered at Mumbai and signed by officials of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India and NABSarakshan, Nabard said in a statement. **NTPL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nabard.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- It is expected that the credit guarantee offered through the Trust will enhance the credit worthiness of FPOs besides facilitating cost-effective production and productivity leading to higher net income to farmers who are members of FPOs
- According to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, FPOs are to be developed in produce clusters, wherein agricultural and horticultural produces are grown / cultivated for leveraging economies of scale and improving market access for members

BSE Signs MoU With Business Leadership League To Help SMEs

- The BSE (Formerly Bombay Stock Exchange) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Business Leadership League (BLL).
- This will help the aspiring SMEs (Small Medium Enterprises) to align and strategize about their innovative solutions and to get prepared for listing on BSE SME Platform.
- Objective is to provide benefit to SMEs by education and knowledge to function efficiently.

SEBI Formed 4-Member Advisory Committee on Settlement Orders Chaired by Vijay C Daga

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) constituted a 4-member advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences.
- The advisory committee will be chaired by Vijay C Daga, retired judge of the High Court of Bombay.
- The other members of the panel include PK Malhotra, the former law secretary in the Ministry of Law & Justice, PR Ramesh, ex-Chairman of Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP and DN Raval, Partner at Raval&Raval Associates.
- The committee will work as per the SEBI (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations, 2018.
- **Note:** The provisions of the Settlement Proceedings regulation will not apply in the case of proceedings pending before the Tribunal or any court.

Google Payment India reports ₹14.8 crore revenue in FY 21

- Google Payment India Private Limited reported its revenues for the financial year 2020-21 as ₹14.8 crore.
- The company further reported a net profit of ₹1.4 crore during the same fiscal. This is a 210 per cent increase from the last financial year.
- The company's total expenses for the fiscal were reported as ₹12.8 crore. The company's assets stood at ₹118.9 crore for FY21 compared to ₹85 crore same time last year whereas its liabilities stood at ₹109 crore for the fiscal compared to ₹75 crore same time last year
- The payments company's net worth stood at ₹12 crore for FY21 compared to ₹10 crore at the same time last year.
- Its return on equity for the fiscal grew by 11.70 per cent for the fiscal.

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance reported 47% rise in Q2 net profit

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance reported a 46.6 per cent jump in its net profit for the second quarter of the fiscal, aided by robust growth in premium income.
- For the quarter-ended September 30, 2021, the private sector life insurer posted a net profit of ₹444.57 crore as against a net profit of ₹303.22 crore in the same period last fiscal.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- Net premium income increased by 8.33 per cent to ₹9,286.53 crore in the second quarter of the fiscal from ₹8,572.19 crore a year ago.
- **Net income** from investments surged by **70.4 per cent** on a year-on-year basis to ₹13,545.83 crore in the July-September **2021 quarter**.

PhonePe transactions grows 33.6% between July and September

- During July to September 2021, **PhonePe saw 33.6 per cent** growth in transactions from the previous quarter at 526.5 crore, while **the value of transactions grew 23.3 per cent to ₹9,21,674 crore**.
- **According to the Q3 (July-September) 2021 data released on PhonePe Pulse** — an interactive website with digital payment data, insights and trends in India — money transfers with **UPI and merchant payments clocked 221 crore and 231 crore transactions**, respectively.
- Further, offline merchant payments grew faster than online, **65 per cent higher than the previous quarter**, marking a period of recovery after the second wave of the pandemic and the rapid reopening of stores.
- **Digital transactions grew 80%** in last 250 days reported by Razorpay.

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank has inaugurated its first branch at Chennai in Tamil Nadu

- **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited** has announced the inauguration of its **first branch in the city of Chennai and in the state of Tamil Nadu**.
- The Bank today has **601 branches in 202 districts** spread across 19 states and 2 Union Territories in the country.
- The residents of Ashok Nagar, Chennai can now avail the Bank's products and services, which includes savings bank account, current account, fixed deposits, recurring deposits, housing loans, business loans and loan against property amongst other facilities.
- The launch of this branch is aligned with **the Bank's strategy to extend its reach to offer various financial services across the country**.

Vodafone-Idea Joined Hands With L&T For Testing 5G Based Smart City Solutions

- Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL), a **Telecom operator** and Larsen and Toubro (L&T), an **Indian Multinational conglomerate company** have joined hands for a pilot project to test 5G-based smart city solutions.
- **Internet of Things (IoT) and 5G network IoT** is the **network of physical objects or devices (things)** that are **embedded with sensors, software and other technologies** to **exchange and transfer data over the internet**.
- IoT is transforming the way businesses operate by reinventing processes, operations, customer experiences and developing newer business models and revenue opportunities IoT is crucial to the roll-out of 5G as it will enable connecting billions of devices under the service.

Tata AIG launches 'RPAS Insurance' & appoints 'TropoGo' as its Distribution partner

- Tata AIG General Insurance Co. Ltd. launched a '**Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)**' Insurance for drone owners & operators.
- It also announced **TropoGo, a deep tech startup on the drone ecosystem**, as its distribution partner for the RPAS insurance scheme.

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RPAS Insurance:

- Tata AIG has launched **the RPAS Insurance after satisfying the recommendations made by IRDAI's Working Group on RPAS Insurance, and other valuable inputs from the Drone Federation of India (DFI).**
- RPAS Insurance Products cover **both Hull and Third-Party Liability risks on Drones, optional coverage for Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operations, night flying, data loss liability, etc.**
- **India's Ministry of Civil Aviation targets over Rs 5,000 crore investments in the drone manufacturing industry and an annual sales turnover of over Rs 900 crore by FY24.**
- It also targets to make India a drone hub by 2030.

Addl. Info:

- India has made relaxations to the rules for owning and operating drones along with inclusion of drones in Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme

IndiaFirst Life Introduces 'Saral Bachat Bima' Insurance Plan

- **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life)**, a joint venture of Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India introduced "IndiaFirst Life Saral Bachat Bima Plan".
- It is a savings and protection cover plan for the entire family.

About IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life)

- MD & Chief Executive Officer(CEO): R. M. Vishakha
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founded: 16 November 2009

NSE Tie-up with Chainflux and Launched Blockchain Platform 'NOSE-Shine' for Gold Bullion

- **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) in collaboration with Chainflux has launched a blockchain platform for gold bullion named 'NSE-Shine'.**
- The platform was inaugurated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)'s Executive Director, VS Sundaresan.
- The platform **will provide a data framework for bullion bar integrity for settlement of Gold derivatives contracts.**
- Indian Bullion and Jewellers' Association (IBJA) and the India Gold Policy Centre (IGPC) at the Indian Institute of Management – Ahmedabad (IIM-A) have worked along with the NSE and Chainflux to develop NSE-Shine.

Bank of Maharashtra net profit jumps ₹264 crore in Q2

- **Bank of Maharashtra reported a 107 per cent year-on-year jump in second quarter net profit at ₹264 crore against ₹130 crore in the year ago quarter.**
- Net interest income in the reporting quarter rose 34 per cent yoy **at ₹1499 crore.** Other income was up 23 per cent yoy at ₹493 crore.
- **Loan loss provisions jumped to ₹583 crore,** including towards increase in provisions on account of implementation of resolution plans under RBI's "Resolution Framework for COVID-19 related stress" against a write back of ₹4.55 crore in the year ago quarter.

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- Deposits increased by 14.46 per cent yoy to ₹1,81,572 crore. Advances rose by 13.55 per cent yoy to ₹1,10,728 crore.

IMF Reduced India's Potential GDP Forecast by 25 bps to 6%

- In its '2021 Article IV consultations with India' report, International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reduced India's potential GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast in the medium term by 25 basis points (bps) to 6 percent from 6.25 percent due to the impact of COVID-19 on investments and labour markets.

Addl.Info:

- Potential growth is the rate of growth that an economy can sustain over the medium term without generating excess inflation.

Dvara E-Dairy & Jana SFB tie-up to Finance Small and Medium Dairy Farmers

- Agri-fintech firm Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Private Limited has entered into a collaboration with **Jana Small Finance Bank (Jana SFB) to service small dairy farmers by empowering small and medium dairy farmers** with financial and cattle management solutions using digital technologies.

Addl.Info:

- Through **Jana SFB's extensive branch network in rural and agricultural regions across India, Dvara E-Dairy intends to expand the credit and underwriting process** for cattle loans.
- The Dvara E-Dairy's digital identity (ID) tag **Surabhi e-Tag** will provide accurate cattle identification based on the muzzle identity.
- The Surabhi Score based on digital assessment, complements the underwriting of cattle loans based on dairy activities and customised cattle management recommendations.
- This helps dairy farmers to improve their livelihood and achieve household financial goals.

NABSanrakshan signs Trust Deed for Rs 1000cr Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for FPOs

- **NABSanrakshan Trustee Private Limited (NTPL), a subsidiary of NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) signed a trust deed for Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Farmer Producer Organisations (CGTFPO).**
- This led to the setting up of a dedicated **credit guarantee fund of Rs 1,000 crore for 10,000 FPOs.** The trust is registered at Mumbai (Maharashtra) and signed by officials of the Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) and NTPL.

CCI Approved Acquisition of HGS' healthcare BPO services by Betaine BV & GCAPH by Stammeeer B.V

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the **acquisition of worldwide healthcare business process outsourcing (BPO) services of Hinduja Global Solutions Ltd(HGS)** along with certain assets, contracts and employees by Betaine B.V.

CCI Approved Acquisition of GCAPH by Stammeeer:

- CCI has also approved the acquisition of Global Content Alpha Partners Holdco Pte. Ltd. (GCAPH) by Stammeeer B.V. (Stammeeer) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. The proposed combination under Sections 5(a)

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of the Competition Act, 2002, concerns the acquisition of up to the entire issued share capital of GCAPH from its existing shareholders.

Govt to issue 4 tranches of Sovereign Gold Bonds from October 2021 to March 2022

- Centre in consultation with RBI has decided to issue four tranches of Sovereign Gold Bonds from October 2021 to March 2022.
- As the statement of RBI, Subscription for the next tranche can be done between 25th October to 29th October.
- The Bonds will be sold through Scheduled Commercial banks, designated post offices, and Stock exchanges.
- Bonds will be restricted for sale to resident individuals, HUFs, Trusts, Universities and Charitable Institutions.
- It will be denominated in multiples of gram of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram and Minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold.

Addl.Info:

- Price of Bond will be fixed on the basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity, published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Limited for the last 3 working days of the week preceding the subscription period.
- Discount of ₹50 per gram will be given for those who will subscribe it online and pay through digital mode.

SEBI asks investment advisors to refrain from dealing in digital gold

- Capital markets regulator Sebi has asked investment advisors to refrain from dealing in digital gold, which is an unregulated product.
- This came after Sebi noted that some registered investment advisors are engaged in unregulated activity by providing a platform for buying, selling or dealing in unregulated products including digital gold.
- SEBI further said any dealing in unregulated activities by investment advisors may entail action under the Sebi Act and regulations framed thereunder.
- In August, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) had directed its members, including stockbrokers, to discontinue the sale of digital gold on their platforms by September 10.
- The direction came after the capital markets regulator noted that certain members are providing a platform to their clients for buying and selling digital gold.

CBDT issues refunds of over Rs 92,961 crore to taxpayers in FY22 so far

- Central Board of Direct Taxes, CBDT has issued refunds of over 92 thousand 961 crore rupees to more than 63 lakh 23 thousand taxpayers between 1st of April to 18th of October this year
- The refunds of 23 thousand 26 crore rupees have been issued in over 61 lakh 53 thousand cases and Corporate Tax refunds of 69 thousand 934 crore rupees have been issued in over one lakh 69 thousand cases.

Addl.Info:

- Income Tax Department has refunded 62 thousand and 361 crore rupees to more than 20 lakh taxpayers during Covid-19 lockdown days
- Central Board of Direct Taxes has issued tax refunds at a speed of 76 cases per minute from 8th April to 30th June.

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- Income tax refunds amounting to over 23 thousand and 453 crore rupees have been issued in more than 19.07 lakh cases and corporate tax refunds amounting to over 38 thousand 908 crore rupees have been issued in more than 1.36 lakh cases to taxpayers during this period.
- Refunds of this magnitude and numbers have been issued completely electronically and have been directly deposited into the bank accounts of the taxpayers.

Oil remains near multi-year highs as energy supply crunch continues

- Oil futures now rose and **were near multi-year highs as an energy supply crunch continued across the globe.**
- Falling temperatures in China revived concerns** over whether the **world's biggest energy consumer can meet domestic heating needs.**
- In intra-day trade, Brent crude was **trading around 84 dollars and 30 cents per barrel** while **WTI crude prices** were at **82 dollars and 20 cents per barrel.**

Rs 814 cr received in dividend tranches from 5 CPSEs: DIPAM Secy

- Secretary of Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** Tuhin Kanta Pandey has said that **dividend tranches of about 296 crore rupees** have been received from **Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC)** and **233 crore rupees** from **Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO).**
- OIL has paid about **92 crore rupees**, **KIOCL 99 crore rupees** and **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam SJVN 94 crore rupees** as **dividend tranches** to Government of India.

CBDT issues Rs 92,961 cr refunds to 63.23 lakh taxpayers

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has issued income tax refunds worth more than **Rs 92,961 crore** to over **63.23 lakh taxpayers** from April 1 to October 18. **While IT refunds worth Rs 23,026 crore have been issued in 61.53 lakh cases**, corporate tax refunds worth **Rs 69, 934 crore** have been issued in **1.69 lakh cases.** These also include **32.49 lakh refunds** of AY 2021-22 worth **Rs 2,498.18 crore.**
- CBDT issues **refunds of over Rs 92,961 crore to more than 63.23 lakh taxpayers** from April 1, 2021 to October 18, 2021.
- Income tax refunds of **Rs 23,026 crore** have been issued in **61, 53,231 cases** and corporate tax refunds of **Rs 69,934 crore** have been issued in **1,69,355 cases.**
- Meanwhile, **the direct taxes watchdog had issued refunds worth over Rs 74,158 crore to more than 45.25 lakh taxpayers from April 1 to September 20.**
- IT refunds of **Rs 18.873 crore** have been issued in **43.68 lakh cases** whereas **corporate tax refunds worth Rs 55,285 crore** have been issued in **1.55 lakh cases.** This included **17.45 lakh refunds** of AY2021-22 **amounting to Rs 1,350.4 crore.**

Govt to issue 4 tranches of Sovereign Gold Bonds from October 2021 to March 2022

- Centre in consultation with RBI has decided to issue four tranches of Sovereign Gold Bonds from October 2021 to March 2022.** Subscription for the next tranche can be done between **25th to 29th October.**

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- The Bonds will be sold through **Scheduled Commercial banks, designated post offices, and Stock exchanges**. Bonds will be restricted for sale to resident individuals, HUFs, Trusts, Universities and Charitable Institutions.
- It will be denominated in multiples of gram of gold with a **basic unit of 1 gram and Minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold**.
- Price of Bond will be fixed on the basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity, **published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Limited** for the last 3 working days of the week preceding the subscription period.
- Discount of ₹50 per gram will be given for those who will subscribe it online and pay through digital mode.

CCI nod for HDFC Bank's stake buy in HDFC ERGO

- **HDFC Bank to acquire 4.99%** of outstanding equity share capital of **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company**.
- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved** the acquisition of 4.99 per cent shareholding in HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company (HDFC ERGO) by HDFC Bank
- HDFC Bank had informed that its board had approved buying of more than 3.5 crore shares in the group's entity **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company for over ₹ 1,906 crore** from the parent company **Housing Development Finance Corporation or HDFC**
- The acquisition will allow HDFC Bank to take part in the growth opportunity of HDFC ERGO General Insurance and create long term value for its shareholders.

S&P upgrades Manappuram Finance's credit rating to 'BB-'

- **S&P Global Ratings** has upgraded the long-term issuer credit rating of **Manappuram Finance** to 'BB-' from 'B+' while **keeping the outlook 'stable'**.
- The ratings agency has also affirmed the 'B' short-term rating for the company.
- The gold-based lending business of **Manappuram Finance** has proved to be an **effective counterbalance to the weakness in India's microfinance segment**.
- They upgraded Manappuram because they expect the company to continue to perform better than its **NBFC peers over the next 12 months**. This would be reflected in the company's lower credit costs, above-average profitability, and strong capitalization.
- Manappuram Finance's gold-based lending model with a three-month tenor allows it to recognize asset quality stress early.
- While the stress in the economy owing to the second wave of Covid-19 infections during April-June 2021 and the decline in gold prices led to increased auctions of higher loan-to-value (LTV) loans in the first quarter of fiscal 2022.

'Razorpay TokenHQ': Razorpay launches Tokenization Solution

- On the lines of the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in September 2021, on October 22, 2021, **Fintech firm Razorpay** launched a **tokenization solution** namely '**Razorpay TokenHQ**'.
- It will work across all major card networks including **Mastercard, RuPay and Visa**.
- This tokenization solution for businesses will allow their customers to have the convenience of saved card transactions with added security.

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Addl. Info about RBI Guidelines for tokenization:

- RBI mandated to store customer's card information in the form of an encrypted form i.e., **Card-On-File (COF) tokenization** to secure transactions.
- **COF turns sensitive cardholder data** into randomly generated numbers called "**token**" with no meaningful value, if **breached**.
- These tokens then allow payments to be processed without disclosing any customer details.
- Therefore, this mandate **disallows businesses, payment aggregators, and acquiring banks from storing customers'** credit/debit/prepaid card information.
- All stakeholders are required to ensure full compliance with the tokenization framework by December 31, 2021.

AU Small Finance Bank launches QR Sound box for payment alerts

- India's Largest Small Finance Bank AU Small Finance Bank has launched **QR (Quick Response) Code Sound Box** to boost its digital payments, while making it the first bank to launch such a product.
- The **QR Sound Box** will help **small merchants to run their operations smoothly** without the **hassle of reading SMS every time** when a customer makes a payment.

Features:

- **QR Sound box will provide instant voice-based payment alerts to merchant partners that provide hassle free transactions and services to customers.**
- The sound box has a portable speaker, equipped with a **SIM slot for data connectivity, which also gives voice notification.**
- It will be made available in five languages – Hindi, English, Punjabi, Gujarati and Marathi.
- **Limits on an AIFI's Investments:** An AIFI's investments in the capital instruments issued by banking, financial and insurance entities should not exceed 10 percent of its capital funds.

India and ADB has signed a project readiness financing loan to support urban mobility in Mizoram

- **The Centre and the Asian Development Bank** has signed a **4.5-million-dollar** project readiness financing PRF loan to support project preparation and design activities to improve **urban mobility in Aizawl, the capital city of the northeastern state of Mizoram.**
- Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, in the **Ministry of Finance Rajat Kumar Mishra** signed for the Government of India, while Country Director of **ADB's India Resident Mission Takeo Konishi** signed for ADB.
- **Urban mobility in Aizawl, the center of Mizoram's administrative** and service industry is severely constrained due to rapid and unplanned urbanization.
- This results in **traffic congestion on narrow road widths and adversely impacts road safety, efficiency in the movement of people** and goods and environmental sustainability.
- The ensuing project, being developed through the PRF, seeks to resolve the city's transport problems by adopting sustainable urban mobility solutions.

Centre ties up \$251-m ADB loan for Chennai flood protection project

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- The **Asian Development Bank** and the **Central government** has signed a **\$251-million loan** for climate-resilient, integrated urban flood protection and management in the **Chennai–Kosasthalaiyar basin to strengthen the resilience of Chennai city to floods.**
- Ministry of Finance's Department of Economic Affairs Additional Secretary Rajat Kumar Mishra and ADB Country Director for India **Takeo Konishi signed the agreement for the Integrated Urban Flood Management for the Chennai–Kosasthalaiyar River Basin Project.**
- Chennai's rapid urbanisation has encroached on the city's natural landscape, reducing water retention capacity, which makes the city vulnerable to widespread flooding.
- The project will **involve construction of 588 km of new stormwater drains**, rehabilitate or replace **175 km of stormwater drains**, improve **11 km stretches in the Ambattur, Ariyallur, Kadappakkam, and Korattur channels** to enhance water-carrying capacity, and upgrade a stormwater pumping station and construct a new one.
- It will also construct 23,000 catchpits in roadside drains to recharge the groundwater aquifer and rehabilitate four disaster relief camps.

ICICI Lombard has launched BeFit – cashless OPD and wellness combination to customers

- **ICICI Lombard has launched BeFit**, a service provided through its **ILTakeCare app** that gives customers benefits of complete OPD services that is, doctor consultation, pharmacy, diagnostics services, etc. **on a cashless basis.**
- The solution empowers customers to benefit from a host of wellness services. **As good health and immunity gain importance**, this comprehensive solution will come in handy now more than ever
- **ICICI Lombard's BeFit benefit along with the standard health insurance policy will provide the policyholder with 360-degree support that they require**
- this comprehensive offering "provides a digitally enabled health ecosystem, which is integrated to bring more than 11,000 doctors across cities".

FGII Entered Into Bancassurance Partnership With Bank of India

- **Future Generali India Insurance(FGII) Company Limited**, a private sector general insurer, has **entered into a bancassurance partnership with the Bank of India(Bol)** to increase the reach of its insurance products.
- Under this partnership, **FGII will offer its wide range of best in class and innovative insurance solutions to the customers of 5084 Branches of Bol across 28 states and 8 Union Territories.**

Addl.Info:

- To date, the FGII has partnered with around 15 public and private banks to enhance its distribution across India.

Bancassurance:

- Bancassurance is an **arrangement between a bank and an insurance company that allows the insurance company to sell its products through the bank's infrastructure** to the customers of the bank.
- This partnership arrangement can be profitable for both companies.

India Post Payments Bank and HDFC Ltd partner to offer home loans

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- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and HDFC has entered into a strategic alliance to offer home loans to nearly 4.7 crore customers of the payments bank.**
- Leveraging its country-wide network of 650 branches and over 1,36,000 banking access points (Post offices), IPPB aims to make HDFC's home loan products and its expertise available to its customers across India.
- **A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the strategic alliance was signed between IPPB and HDFC Ltd.**
- The partnership aims to facilitate HDFC's home loans to customers, especially in unbanked and underserved areas with many of them having little or no access to finance, to fulfill their dream of owning a home.
- IPPB will offer housing loans through **nearly 190,000 banking service providers** (Postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks)

India, ADB has signed 100 million US dollar loan for agribusiness development in Maharashtra

- **Government of India and Asian Development Bank, ADB has signed a 100 million US dollar loan to promote an agribusiness network to boost farm incomes and reduce food losses in the State of Maharashtra.**
- The agreement for the Maharashtra Agribusiness Network Project was signed by an Additional Secretary in **the Ministry of Finance Rajat Kumar Mishra and the Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission Takeo Konishi.**
- Mishra stated that the project supports agribusiness development in Maharashtra with holistic support to on-farm improvement in productivity, **up-gradation of post-harvest facilities, and establishing efficient marketing structures.**
- **The project will help small and marginal farmers in the State improve their post-harvest and marketing capacity, reduce food losses, and increase incomes through access to finance, capacity building, and horticulture value chain infrastructure development.**

India, ADB sign 251- million- dollar loan for integrated urban flood management in Chennai

- The Government of India and the **Asian Development Bank** has signed a **251 -million-dollar loan for climate-resilient, integrated urban flood protection and management in the Chennai- Kosasthalaiyar basin to strengthen resilience of Chennai city to floods.**
- The agreement was signed between, **Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Takeo Konishi, Country Director of Asian Development Bank's India Resident Mission.**
- The project interventions will help **reduce the vulnerability of Chennai-Kosasthalaiyar basin residents to frequent floods.**
- The building disaster-resilient infrastructure will help communities cope with intensifying rainfall, a higher sea level rise, and a storm surge caused by cyclones and protect lives, economy and the environment.

Government, Tata Sons signed Rs 18000cr Share Purchase Agreement for Air India

- The Central Government signed a **Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Tata Sons for sale (strategic disinvestment) of national carrier Air India for Rs 18,000 crore.**
- The information for the same was provided by **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey.**
- The SPA was signed by Air India Director – Finance Vinod Hejmadi; and Civil Aviation Ministry Joint Secretary Satyendra Mishra and Suprakash Mukhopadhyay.

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ICICI Lombard launches BeFit – Cashless OPD & Wellness Services to Customers

- ICICI Lombard General Insurance has launched a solution named '**BeFit**' to provide benefits of **OPD (Outpatient Department) services** to its customers in a cashless manner.
- The OPD services include doctor consultation, pharmacy and diagnostics services, and physiotherapy sessions.
- **BeFit** was serviced by ICICI Lombard's **ILTakeCare** app.

IndiGo Tie-up with KMB to Launch Co-Branded Credit Card 'Ka-ching'

- **IndiGo and Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB)** entered into a strategic partnership for the launch of a co-branded credit card named '**Ka-ching**'.

Features of Ka-ching:

- The credit card was launched **under IndiGo's 6E Rewards** programme and linked with it to enable the members to earn rewards by using the card on IndiGo and other merchants.
- **The co-branded card will be available in 2 variants** such as **6E Rewards** and **6E Rewards XL** by offering exclusive travel benefits for domestic and international travel.
- The card was scheduled to be launched in November 2021 and with the card, the customers could **access some special benefits on IndiGo**.
- As the card is linked with the **6E Rewards Programme**, the cardholders could **earn additional 6E Rewards on shopping, transport, medical bill spending, utilities, fuel, etc.**

SAIPL and SBI together Provides Financial Support to Dairy farmers in Maharashtra

- **Sunfresh Agro Industries Private Limited (SAIPL)** in Maharashtra operating under Global dairy major **Lactalis** partnered with **State Bank of India (SBI)** to extend financial support to the dairy farmers in the state.
- The loan from SBI helps the farmers to buy cattle that would produce higher quality milk, improve storage and supply-chain.
- The company is in the market with **brand Parbhat for milk and indigenous products**

Govt, ADB sign US\$100mn Loan Pact to Promote Agribusiness in Maharashtra

- **The Government of India (GoI) and Asian Development Bank (ADB)** inked US\$100 million loan agreement for **Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MAGNET) Project**.
- The project envisages promoting agribusiness network to boost farm incomes and reduce food losses in the State of Maharashtra.
- **ADB will provide a \$500,000 technical assistance (TA) grant** from its **Technical Assistance Special Fund** and **\$2 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction** on a grant basis to improve market linkages for FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations).

Signatories:

- India– **Rajat Kumar Mishra**, additional Secretary in the Ministry of Finance
- ADB– **Takeo Konishi**, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission

Addl.Info:

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- The ADB loan will provide financing opportunities for FPOs and value chain operators (VCOs) through grants.
- It also provides **financial intermediation loans to support 300 subprojects**.
- The TA will establish crop-based centers of excellence networks, promote innovative technologies in agribusiness, and support capacity building of the **MAGNET Society and the Maharashtra State Agriculture Marketing Board (MSAMB)**.

Yes Bank has launched co-branded card with BankBazaar

- **Yes Bank** has announced the launch of co-branded credit card **FinBooster in partnership with BankBazaar.com**
- It aims to empower customers to not only keep a track of their credit worthiness but also improve their score basis review of factors impacting their credit score through an intuitive **CreditStrong app subscription (credit fitness report), complimentary for the Cardholder for the first year**
- The most recent edition of the **BankBazaar Aspiration Index** revealed that while close to 90 per cent people knew what credit score was, less than 70 per cent could accurately point out the impact of their financial habits on their credit scores.
- **Finbooster in partnership with BankBazaar** is another step in our endeavour to enhance customer experience while strengthening our Credit Cards portfolio.
- Designed to promote **credit health, the card empowers customers to boost their credit worthiness** while continuing to earn rewards points through everyday spends across brands and merchants.

Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
Reserve Bank of India	Mumbai	Shaktikanta Das
State Bank of India	Mumbai	Dinesh Kumar Khara
World Bank	Washington DC	David Malpass
Paytm	Noida	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development	Mumbai	Dr. G.R. Chintala
National Payments Corp. of India	Mumbai	Dilip Asbe
Axis Bank	Mumbai	Amitabh Chaudhry
UCO Bank	Kolkata	Atul Kumar Goel
Bank of India	Mumbai	Atanu Kumar Das
Indel Money	Mumbai	Umesh Mohanan
Asian Development Bank	Mandaluyong, Philippines	Masatsugu Asakawa
World Bank	Washington DC	David Malpass

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BharatPe	New Delhi	Ashneer Grover
ICICI Bank	Mumbai	Sandeep Bakhshi
Equitas SFB	Chennai	Vasudevan P N
PhonePe	Bengaluru	Sameer Nigam
Federal Bank	Aluva	Shyam Srinivasan
Visa	California	Alfred F Kelly Jr
Ola Electric	Bengaluru	Bhavish Aggarwal
HDFC Bank	Mumbai	Sashidhar Jagdishan
Tata Capital	Mumbai	Rajiv Sabharwal
Kotak Mahindra Bank	Mumbai	Uday Kotak
IndusInd Bank	Pune	Sumant Kathpalia
AU Small Finance Bank	Jaipur	Sanjay Agarwal
Jana Small Finance Bank	Bengaluru	Ajay Kanwal
YES Bank	Mumbai	Prashant Kumar
SBM Bank	Port Louis, Mauritius	Sidharth Rath
OneCard	Riyadh	Anurag Sinha
IndusInd Bank	Pune	Sumant Kathpalia
Securities Exchange Board of India	Mumbai	Ajay Tyagi
Bank of Baroda	Vadodara	SL Jain
Karnataka Bank	Mangalore	Mahabaleshwara M. S
ICICI Lombard General Insurance	Mumbai	Bhargav Dasgupta
Bharti AXA General Insurance	Mumbai	Sanjeev Srinivasan
South Indian Bank	Thrissur	Murali Ramakrishnan
Paytm Money	Noida	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
Delhi Metro Rail Corporation	New Delhi	Mangu Singh
DBS Bank	Singapore	Piyush Gupta
Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication	La Hulpe, Belgium	Javier Pérez-Tasso
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	Thoothukudi	K V Rama Moorthy
United Nations Development Programme	New York	Achim Steiner
Escorts Limited	Faridabad	Nikhil Nanda

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Punjab & Sind Bank	New Delhi	S Krishnan
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited	Varanasi	Govind Singh
Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited	Gurugram	Sameer Gehlaut
RBL Bank	Mumbai	Vishwavir Ahuja
Mastercard	New York	Michael Miebach
HSBC India	Mumbai	Hitendra Dave
Vistara	Gurugram	Bhaskar Bhat
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	Navi Mumbai	Baskar Babu Ramachandran
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd	Mumbai	Mukesh Kumar Surana
PayPoint India	Mumbai	Ketan Doshi
Euromoney	London	Andrew Rashbass
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	Mumbai	Arun Kumar Singh
Airtel Payments Bank	New Delhi	Anubrata Biswas
Fino Payments Bank	Mumbai	Rishi Gupta
U GRO Capital	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Shachindra Nath

Important Financial & Economy Affairs

Moody's upgrades India's rating outlook to 'Stable' from 'Negative'

- With the economy showing improvement, global ratings firm Moody's Investor Services has changed India's sovereign rating outlook to **'Stable'** from **'Negative'** even as it retained the sovereign rating at **'Baa3'**.
- **Baa3'** is the lowest investment grade rating. Obligations related to this rating are subject to moderate credit risk.
- They are considered medium grade and as such may possess certain speculative characteristics. A **'Stable'** outlook indicates a low likelihood of a rating change over the medium term.
- The rating agency acknowledged that an economic recovery is underway. It expects the real GDP this fiscal to exceed the FY20 level with a **growth rate of 9.3 per cent**. For 2022-23, its forecast is **7.9 per cent**
- **Moody's expects real GDP growth to average around 6 per cent over the medium term**, reflecting a rebound in activity to levels at potential as conditions normalise

GST collection for September crosses ₹1.17 lakh crore

- The gross **GST** revenue collected in the month of September was **1,17,010 crore rupees**, which included CGST component of 20,578 crore, SGST 26,767 crore and IGST component of 60,911 crore rupees.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The revenue for September was 23 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year. During the month, revenue from import of goods was 30 per cent higher
- The revenue from domestic transactions including import of services was 20 per cent higher than the revenue from these sources during the same month last year.
- The average monthly gross GST collection for the second quarter of the current year amounted to 1.15 lakh crore rupees, which was five per cent higher than the average monthly collection of 1.10 lakh crore rupees in the first quarter of the year.

CRISIL Credit ratio has improved in H1 FY22

- India Inc seems to be shrugging off the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic with credit ratings agencies reporting improvement in credit ratio and corporate credit profile.
- **Crisil Ratings credit ratio increased further in the first half of fiscal 2022, with 488 upgrades and 165 downgrades**, reflecting a sharp and sustained recovery in demand despite the intense second wave of Covid-19 infections.
- This was the second consecutive rise in the **credit ratio, at 2.96 times**. It had risen to 1.33 times in the second half of last fiscal from 0.54 time in the previous half

World Bank to extend \$150 million to Chennai's Sustainable Urban Services Programme

- **The World Bank will give \$150 million** loan to support the Government of Tamil Nadu's Chennai City Partnership: **Sustainable Urban Services Programme, which seeks to help strengthen institutions, improve the financial health** of service agencies, and drive significant improvements in the quality of four key urban services — water supply and sewerage, mobility, health, and solid waste management.
- It will help Tamil Nadu Government, Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), and key service agencies adopt new approaches to service delivery and bring a renewed focus on results for citizens

IFSCA constitutes expert panel on sustainable finance

- Gift city regulator **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has constituted an Expert Committee to recommend an approach towards development of a Sustainable **Finance Hub and provide a road map** for the same.
- **Expert committee will be chaired by CK Mishra**, former Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- The committee has been tasked to study the current regulatory practices in sustainable finance across major international financial jurisdictions and recommend a robust framework to develop a world-class sustainable finance hub at IFSCA

About IFSCA:

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) was established on April 27, 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.
- It is headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Revision Points

Organizations	Headquarters	President/CEO/Head
Moody's	New York	Raymond W. McDaniel Jr.
Morgan Stanley	New York	James P. Gorman
S&P Global Ratings	New York	John L. Berisford
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Geneva	Rebeca Grynspan
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	Paris	General Mathias Cormann
ICRA Ltd	Gurgaon	N. Sivaraman

Important Business News

AIIB approves USD 356.67 million loan for expansion of Chennai Metro Rail System

- **The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved a USD 356.67 million loan** to the Government of India to support the expansion of the Chennai metro rail system.
- The project involves the construction of a new corridor in Chennai's metro network as part of Chennai Metro Rail Phase 2.
- It will span from Lighthouse in the east to Poonamalee Bypass in the west to ensure seamless multimodal transport across **Chennai by providing integrated access to suburban rail, bus stations and the city's main airport.**
- In addition, the project will address traffic bottlenecks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing public urban transport options

PM Modi shares his remarks at launch of India Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020 through video conferencing:

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited global investors to invest in India and be a part of India's growth story.** Sharing his remarks at the launch of India Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020 through video conferencing.
- **The main theme of Expo is Connecting Minds, Creating the Future.** the spirit of this theme is also seen in India's efforts as we move ahead to create a New India.
- This expo is also testimony to the resilience of mankind against the once in a century pandemic.
- Referring to the **theme of India's pavilion Openness, Opportunity and Growth, the Prime Minister stressed** that today's India is one of the most open countries in the world, open to learning, open to perspectives, open to innovation and open to investment.
- India's economic growth is powered by a combination of legacy industries and start-ups. India's pavilion will showcase the best of India across these multiple areas.
- Mr Modi called the Expo historic and it is **the first one to be held in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia region.**
- The Expo will go a long way in further building our deep and historical relations with **UAE, and with Dubai.**

Govt receives about Rs. 1,426 crore from Coal India Limited as dividend in FY21

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- **The government has received over Rs 2,800 crore as dividend from Coal India and ONGC fiscal year (FY) 2021**
- Government of India has respectively received about Rs 1426 cr from Coal India Ltd and Rs 1406 crore from ONGC as dividend in this FY recently
- **As per the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) website, so far in the current financial year (April-March), the government has received Rs 4,576 crore as dividend from CPSEs.**
- Besides, Rs 9,110 crore has been mobilised through disinvestment in various Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) so far this fiscal.

Coal Ministry has launched auction of 40 new coal mines

- The Ministry of Coal has launched next round of auction process for 40 new coal mines for sale of coal.
- **Union Minister of Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi will be the chief guest** of the launch event.
- Since the Ministry has entered into a rolling auction mechanism, the coal mines rolled over from the previous tranche will also be on offer.
- Ministry of Coal under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a continuous journey to reform the coal sector and unlock value for the nation's economy.
- The success of these auctions will help in further strengthening the vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat as it will help reduce India's coal imports and ensure energy security.

Finance Ministry has released monthly installment of PDRD Grant of Rs 9,871 crore to states

- The Finance Ministry has released the 7th monthly installment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of 9,871 crore rupees to the states.
- With the release of this installment, a total amount of 69,097 crore rupees has been released to states as PDRD in the current financial year.
- The grants are released as per the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission in monthly installments to meet the gap in revenue accounts of the states post devolution.
- The Commission has recommended PDRD grants to 17 States during 2021-22. The states include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.
- The eligibility of states to receive this grant was decided by the Commission based on the gap between assessment of revenue and expenditure of the State.
- **The Commission recommended a total Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of over 1.18 lakh crore to the states in the financial year 2021-22.** Out of this, an amount of 69,097 crore rupees has been released so far.

JNPT records over 40% growth in container traffic in 1st half of current financial year

- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) has recorded over 40 percent growth** in container traffic in first half of the current financial year as compared to the corresponding period last year.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- It has handled over 27 lakh TEUs during first half of the current financial year. Mentioning about the recently flagging off of the Dwarf container train services from JNPT, Chairman, JNPT Sanjay Sethi, the Port has been undertaking various measures to ensure the port is at par with technologically advanced global ports.

India is committed to achieve over 40% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil-fuel energy resources by 2030: Power Ministry

- India is committed to achieve more than 40 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil-fuel energy resources by 2030.
- Government has identified new areas to achieve higher levels of penetration of Renewable energy by proposing certain Amendments to Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- The objective of this amendment is to enhance demand for renewable energy at the end-use sectors such as Industry, buildings and transport
- There will be provision to incentivise efforts on using clean energy sources by means of carbon saving certificate.
- The proposed amendments will facilitate development of Carbon market in India and prescribe minimum consumption of renewable energy either as direct consumption or indirect use through grid. This will also help in reduction of fossil fuel- based energy consumption and carbon emission to the atmosphere.

Important State Wise News

Andhrapradesh

AP Governor launches 'one million tree plantation' programme:

- Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan has launched the one million tree plantation programme of the Indian Red Cross Society, Andhra Pradesh State Branch, by planting a sapodilla plant in the Raj Bhavan lawns at a programme on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanthi.
- The Andhra Pradesh State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society has taken up the programme to plant 10 lakh trees across the 13 districts in the State with the help of 13 lakh Junior Red Cross volunteers and Youth Red Cross volunteers in 3000 schools and colleges.
- The tree plantation programme has been taken up by the AP State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society to celebrate the 75th year of India's Independence and also coinciding with the Swachh Bharat 2.0 Mission launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Clean Andhra Pradesh (CLAP) programme launched by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.
- The tree plantation programme by 13 lakh Junior Red Cross volunteers and Youth Red Cross volunteers will continue across 13 districts in the State till end of January, 2022.

Bihar

Ministry of state has inaugurated Seed Production Technology of Gaint Freshwater Prawn/scampi in Bihar

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Fisheries and Animal Husbandry, L Murugan has inaugurated the Seed Production Technology of Gaint Freshwater Prawn/scampi in Bihar virtually from Hyderabad.
- The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has provided financial assistance of 77.16 lakh rupees for the project. The Recirculate Freshwater Prawn Hatchery will have a production capacity of 5 million PL per annum.
- The Minister reviewed various activities of The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)
- He also released jingles relating to PM Matsya Sampada Yojana produced by the Regional Outreach Bureau.

Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel Launches “Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store” Scheme

- On October 20, 2021, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched a scheme titled ‘Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store’.

Aim :

- To provide medicines at low and affordable rates to consumers.

About the Scheme :

- The scheme will be implemented by the Urban Administration and Development Department.
- The initiative is part of the state government’s effort to make healthcare services accessible to the poorest of poor in the state.
- Under this Scheme, medicines will be made available at affordable rates to consumers.
- The scheme has been launched where people will get a discount between 50.09 per cent and 71 per cent on the MRP of medicines.
- Around 188 medical stores will be opened in 169 urban bodies of the state under Dhanvantari Scheme.
- On the inaugural day of the scheme, 84 generic medicine shops were opened across the state.
- These medical stores will sell 251 types of generic medicines and 27 surgical products.

Other Schemes :

- The state government has started Mukhyamantri Haat Bazar Clinic Yojna to provide better health services in remote areas and Mukhyamantri Shahari Slum Health Scheme in urban areas with the goal of universal health coverage.
- Dai-Didi mobile clinic scheme has also been started for women and adolescent girls.

Gujarat

Aravind Kumar sworn in as Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court

- Justice Aravind Kumar was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court.
- Governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath of office to him at Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar.
- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Speaker of Gujarat Assembly Nimaben Acharya, Chief Secretary Pankaj Kumar and the Judges of Gujarat High Court were present on this occasion.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- Justice **Aravind Kumar** succeeds Justice **Vikram Nath** as the Chief Justice of the **Gujarat High Court**. Before this assignment, he was working as a Judge of the Karnataka High Court.

Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel launches Go-Green scheme

- Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** has launched a new scheme titled '**Go-Green**', & its portal to provide electric two-wheelers at subsidised rates to construction and industrial workers of the state.

Aim :

- To **reduce fuel bills** as well as **save the environment by curbing vehicular pollution**.
- Under the scheme, the organised sector workers, such as an industrial labourer, would get a subsidy of 30 per cent on the vehicle's price or Rs 30,000, whichever is less, on the purchase of battery-powered two-wheelers.
- For workers in the construction sector, the criteria is 50 per cent subsidy or Rs30,000, whichever is less.
- e-vehicle buyers of both industrial & Construction sector categories would get a one-time subsidy on RTO registration and road tax.

About the Scheme :

- In the initial phase, the state government aims to provide such **battery-powered two-wheelers to 1,000 construction workers and 2,000 organised sector workers**.
- Only government-approved **Made in India vehicles** will be considered eligible for the scheme.
- Moreover, only high-speed models capable of covering a distance of 50 kilometers in one charge are covered under the scheme.

Haryana

Haryana bans govt employees from participating in politics & elections

- Haryana has banned government employees from participating in politics and elections**. A notification has been issued from the office of the chief secretary in this regard.
- A government has a violation of the order will invite immediate and strict disciplinary action.
- As per the notification, **no government employee should be a member of any political party or any organisation**, which takes part in politics.
- They should also not aid or assist any political movement or activity. Display of any **electoral symbol by a government employee on his person, vehicle or residence will amount to using his influence in connection with an election**.

Himachal Pradesh

Anurag Thakur to inaugurate various roads of PMGSY in Himachal Pradesh:

- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has arrived to Hamirpur district as part of his two-day visit to Himachal Pradesh.
- During his visit, **Mr Thakur will inaugurate various roads of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** in Hamirpur district.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The Union Minister has inaugurated various roads made under **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana** at **Majhog khas, Panjot and Bharmoti of Sujanpur, Bhoranj and Nadun** assembly constituencies in Hamirpur district.
- The Union Minister will also launch the **25th Nand Ghar at Dadla in Sujapur, which provides service in the field of child malnutrition eradication, education, health care and women empowerment**. He will also participate in the **Yuva Morcha Sammelan** at **Tauni Devi** at Sujanpur in Hamirpur district

Himachal Pradesh govt procures record amount of apple in over a decade

- The Himachal Pradesh government has procured a record amount of **apple** this season in over a decade.
- **The HPMC and Himfed have procured the apple via Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).**
- The combined procurement of the two organisations **this year is close to 70,000 MT**. These include over **35,000 MT** by HPMC and **33,000 MT** by Himfed.

Addl.Info:

- This is the maximum Himfed has procured in over a decade. Last year, it had bought 18,000 MT.
- For HPMC, too, this is a record procurement over the past decade or so.
- While the HPMC uses a portion of its procurement for making juices and jams, the rest is auctioned in Parwanoo.

Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh

R K Mathur lays the foundation stone for strategic roads & upgradation of border roads in Turtuk

- **Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur** will lay the foundation stone for strategic roads and upgradation of border roads in Turtuk.
- Construction of new **Hendenbrok-Zingpal road and upgradation of four other roads will be taken up to strengthen the strategic connectivity and socioeconomic development.**
- Project **Vijayak and Himank of Border Roads Organization** will begin works of these roads soon. In foundation laying ceremony in Turtuk, Kargil and Leh CECs **Feroz Ahmed Khan, Tashi Gyaltsen, Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and DG BRO Lt Gen Rajiv Choudhary** also participated.

Cycle race “Pedal for Peace” organised by Police along with NGO: J & K

- In **Jammu and Kashmir, a cycle race “Pedal for Peace”** was organised by Police alongwith an NGO ‘Feeding Kashmir’ in Vilgam area of Handwara in north Kupwara district.
- The programme was as a part of ongoing country wide celebrations of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’,
- The cycle race was flagged off from Police Station Vilgam and culminated at Champora.
- The event was witnessed by a large number of local population of the area.

Manoj Sinha addresses Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Smriti Vyakhyan: J & K

- In Jammu and Kashmir, **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** has addressed **Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Smriti Vyakhyan**
- It is organised by **Research and Development Foundation for Integral Humanism** through virtual conference.
- The UT Administration is making every effort to ensure that benefits of development reach all sections of the society

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- They have accelerated efforts to improve the physical infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. There are special schemes for youth and women in J&K to contribute to sustainable development.

Purushottam Rupala inaugurates Ladakh MSME Business Investment & Job Creation Expo-2021:

- Union Minister for Fisheries, Dairy, Poultry and Animal Husbandry Purushottam Rupala has inaugurated a Two day Ladakh Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Business Investment and Job Creation Expo -2021, in Leh, Ladakh
- Ladakh Autonomous Development Council, Leh CEC Tashi Gyaltsen appealed to the MSME Forum to help entrepreneurs with handholding and also open a local window to help the interested youths.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) Deputy Managing Director V Satya Venkat Rao, SIDBI has an ecosystem to help entrepreneurs till they stand on their own.
- MSME Forum National Chairman Rajnish Goenka, Local chapter representatives Tashi Kachu and Dorjay Angchuk, UT Senior officials and young entrepreneurs participated in the Expo.
- Several MSME entrepreneurs from across the country have set up stalls and showcased their progress at the Ladakh Expo.

PM to virtually inaugurate two 1000 LPM oxygen plants in Leh

- PM Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated two 1000 Litres per minute (LPM) oxygen plants in Leh and Kargil. Ladakh got a total of Seven oxygen plants under PM Cares fund.
- Leh and Kargil district hospitals have one plant each of 1000 LPM, while Nubra has 100 and 250 LPM plants, Kargil-Chiktan 250 LPM, Drass and zanskar 100 LPM plants each.
- After virtual inauguration by the PM Modi from Uttarakhand, Ladakh LG RK Mathur pressed the button of the plant compressor and MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal inaugurated the concentrator.
- LAHDC CEC Tashi Gyaltsen, Advisor Umang Narula and Senior officials also present on the occasion.

J&K and Dubai Govt signed an MoU for Industrialization and sustainable growth in Union Territory

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the J&K administration and the Dubai Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Srinagar and entered into an agreement that will help Jammu and Kashmir union territory to scale new heights in Industrialization and sustainable growth.
- The MoU covers many fields and areas including real estate development, industrial parks, IT towers, multipurpose towers, logistics, medical college and super speciality hospital.
- Home Minister Amit Shah for the Unprecedented development of Jammu & Kashmir and maintained that the MoU reaffirms the commitment of the Government to build Aatm Nirbhar Jammu & Kashmir.
- Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles was also present on the occasion.

J&K police launches dedicated 24x7 public toll-free helplines at PCR Jammu and PCR Kashmir-Srinagar

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- Jammu and Kashmir Police has **launched dedicated 24x7 public toll-free helplines** at PCR Jammu and **PCR Kashmir-Srinagar** for the public to share timely information regarding militancy, Narcotic-drug peddling, or any other anti-national, anti-social activities.
- Police said that the identity of the person will be kept secret. They will also be rewarded depending on quality of information.
- The landline number include PCR Kashmir **0194 2455798**, toll free number **18001807193** and PCR Jammu 0191 2520309, toll free number 18001807192. This is in addition to the already existing helpline system of **dial 100, 112, 1090, 1091 and dozens of landline numbers.**
- This will **help the J&K Police to fight the inimical forces with a stronger punch** and this is in an effort to increase the sense of security among the businessmen, tourists, transporters, students and other sections of the society.

J&K LG Manoj Sinha e-inaugurates “Jashn-e-Zafraan”

- Jammu and Kashmir **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha e-inaugurated the “Jashn-e-Zafraan”, Harvesting Saffron in presence of Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Kailash Choudhury.**
- it is due to farmer-centric policies of the government that the income of the Saffron farmers in Jammu and Kashmir **has doubled in 2021, a year before the deadline.**
- The recent data of the National Statistical Survey shows that after **Meghalaya, Punjab, Haryana and Arunachal Pradesh, the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir** have the highest monthly income of 18,918 rupees, way above the national average of 10,218 rupees.
- Under the vision of Prime Minister Modi, **Saffron of Jammu Kashmir would reach every corner of the world.** He stressed on the use of quality seed, cold storage facilities and best marketing linkages facilities provided by the government.

Kerala

Basant Balaji sworn in as Additional Judge of Kerala HC

- **Basant Balaji** takes oath as an Additional Judge of the Kerala High Court.
- Chief Justice of the **Kerala High Court, Justice S. Manikumar** administered the oath of office to the new judge.
- Justice Balaji, who has specialised in constitutional matters, started practicing as a lawyer at the Kerala High Court in 1998.
- He also served as a **Senior Government Pleader and a Standing Counsel of the Kerala Financial Corporation.**
- With the swearing-in of the new judge, the strength of judges in the Kerala High Court has risen to 38.

Karnataka

Karnataka govt signs MoU with NASSCOM to provide industry suited skill training to students

- The **Karnataka State Higher Education Council** has entered into an MoU with the National Association of Software and Service Companies, **NASSCOM to provide industry-suited skill training to the youth.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The Minister for Higher Education **Dr. C N Ashwatha Narayana** was present on this occasion. Speaking to media persons, the minister informed that the MoU will benefit over **five lakh students studying in the institutions of higher learning in Karnataka every year.**
- The skill training courses are designed as per the national occupational standards of the National Skills Qualification Framework.
- Both faculty and students can have free access to the course materials in the online mode. By this agreement, **the students of higher learning can now study subjects related to digital fluency, artificial intelligence and cyber security.**
- The minister pointed out that the lack of digital talent among those engaged in the IT service industry is a challenge that has to be resolved if the full potential has to be reached.

Karnataka Department of Collegiate and Technical Education signed MoU with Infosys

- The **Karnataka Department of Collegiate and Technical Education** signed an **MoU with IT company Infosys in Bengaluru to facilitate blended learning that will prepare the students for the industry-specific courses and help them in their career growth according to the principles of the National Education Policy 2020.**
- The Higher Education minister in the state, **C N Ashwath Narayana** has informed that this agreement will benefit five lakh students and faculty at the higher education level every year.
- Infosys will support the **collegiate education department by setting up a digital development program** along with required **infrastructure by donating 15000 debonded computers.**
- **This will give access to Infosys Springboard that has over 4900-course materials and 1.6 lakh learning resources.**
- Infosys has also come forward to **train 200 teachers at its Mysuru campus.** The debonded computers donated by Infosys will be deployed in Government diplomas, polytechnic and Engineering Colleges in the state.

Maharashtra

Maharashtra records 19% excess rain during June to September 2021

- Due to the South West Monsoon, **Maharashtra has recorded 19% excess rain during June to September 2021.**
- IMD has informed that, during this period Maharashtra has received 1194.3 millimeters of rain as compared to normal 1004.2 millimeters.
- **Marathwada region has received a highest 48% more** than normal rain during this period. Konkan and Goa region received 3560 millimeters of rain which is 24 percent more than regular rainfall during the season.
- **Mumbai city has received 15.4% excess rain** while Pune has recorded 22 percent less than normal rains this year

Maharashtra village getting 24 hrs clean drinking water under Jal Jivan Mission scheme

- Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi recently interacted with Sarpanchs, members and Gram Sabhas of selected **Gram Panchayats in various states through a televised system to know about the progress of National Water Mission** in their region.
- The **Banwadi Gram Panchayat in Satara district of Maharashtra** was one of the participant.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- Speaking to All India Radio Sarpanch of Banwadi village Pradip Patil informed that every house in his village is getting 24 hours clean drinking water under the Central Government's Jal Jivan Mission scheme.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Highway projects of 527 km length in Maharashtra

- Union Road Transport and Highway Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated National Highway projects totalling a length of 527 km, worth Rs 4,075 crore at Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra.
- Bhumipoojan and dedication of these projects to the nation was held in a programme organized at Kedgaon in Ahmednagar by the National Highways Authority of India (NHA).
- The 527 Km road development projects in Ahmednagar district will be implemented through the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, National Highways Authority of India and Public Works Department, Government of Maharashtra and there is a need to run vehicles on electricity and ethanol on the lines of Brazil.
- India has produced 4.65 billion litres of ethanol last year and it needs 16.5 billion litres of ethanol hence the Central Government will take up as much ethanol as produced.
- The Government of India has allowed ethanol pumps so, all sugar mills should start ethanol pumps in their area.

Manipur

Manipur CM launches "Chief Minister's Health for All" scheme

- In Manipur, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launched the "Chief Minister's Health for All".
- The scheme was already announced by him on the 71st Birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 17th September this year.
- Door-to-door health screening will be conducted across the State and Jan Aushadhi medicines will be provided to patients free of cost for primary health care under the scheme. The Chief Minister Gi Hakchel Gi Tengbal and Ayushman Bharat health cards will also be issued to the patients having severe and chronic illness, if eligible. The Chief Minister also distributed ASHA Plus devices, smartphones and tablets to CHOs, Nurses and ASHA workers for the newly launched campaign.
- During the campaign Screening will be done using a hand-held device known as ASHA Plus for 10 non-communicable diseases, viz. Hypertension, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Kidney Ailments, Respiratory Disease like COPD, three common Cancers, Mental Health problems and Stroke/Post Stroke.
- In the first phase, 1628 villages will be selected comprising all 16 districts. These villages will be linked to 118 Primary Health Sub Centres, 29 Primary Health Centres and 7 Community Health Centres.

Odisha

Odisha targets to achieve 100% house connections for drinking water in all cities by December 2022:

- Odisha has targeted to achieve 100% house connections for drinking water in all cities by December 2022. Speaking at the launch of Swachh Bharat mission 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Odisha has substantially benefited from AMRUT MISSION launched by the union government in 2015.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced that **Odisha capital Bhubaneswar has become the first and only million plus city** so far to achieve 100% house connection for tapped water supply.
- The state has also set a target to set up 100% faecal sludge facilities in all the cities of the state by March 2022.
- Odisha's partnership with the central government in successful implementation of these flagship missions.

Jaswant Singh, Arindam Sinha take oath as Judges of Orissa HC

- In Odisha, **Justice Jaswant Singh and Justice Arindam Sinha** took oath as the Judges of the Orissa High Court.
- They were administered the oath of **office and secrecy** by the Chief Justice of the High Court **Justice S. Muralidhar** in the new conference hall of the High Court in Cuttack.
- Before this appointment, Justice **Jaswat Singh** was working as a Judge in the Punjab and Haryana High Court and Justice Arindam Sinha was a Judge in the Calcutta High Court.

Tamil Nadu

New integrated airport terminal of Chennai Airport likely to be ready before March 2022: TN

- In Tamil Nadu, the new integrated airport terminal **between the domestic and the international terminal of the Chennai Airport** is likely to be ready before March 2022.
- The systems, equipment offices and other facilities will be moved out and reinstalled at the new building.
- The administration has to ensure and conduct tests to ensure that every arrangement is fool proof. After the shifting is complete, the old arrival building will be pulled down and a new terminal will be built

Tamilnadu CM has launched unique academic scheme, 'Education at your doorstep'

- **Tamilnadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin** has launched an unique academic scheme, **Education at your doorstep**, at Villupuram.
- He also **released an app related to the scheme and the theme song**. The novel and ambitious scheme is all set to give education to every child in the State, which was badly hit by the pandemic.
- **AIR Chennai correspondent** reports that enrolled volunteers of the scheme will engage with students for one hour every evening in spaces that will be identified and opened in the community.
- Students from government as well as private schools can attend these classes, which will be activity based and will give them an opportunity to enjoy and learn. The volunteer student ratio would be **1:20 and over one lakh volunteers are expected to join the initiative**.
- Persons who have studied **upto class XII can teach students of Classes 1 to V** and degree holders can teach middle school students.

Telangana

Telangana govt forms Special Cell in GHMC for protection of lakes

- The **Telangana Government** has formed a Special Cell in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to **protect the lakes** in and around the city. The cell will be headed by a Special Commissioner (Lakes).

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The cell will strive to protect and rejuvenate lakes within the Outer Ring Road and will work under the Urban Development Special Chief Secretary.
- **Lakes including the Hussain Sagar and management** of the same will also be under the cell's control.
- Protecting water used for agriculture, strengthening of weirs of water bodies and increasing the green cover around lakes will also be taken up by the cell.

Justice Satish Chandra Sharma sworn in as Chief Justice of Telangana HC

- Justice **Satish Chandra Sharma has been sworn in as the Chief Justice of Telangana high Court**. Telangana Governor Dr Tamilesai Sounderarajan has administered the oath of office at a ceremonial programme held at Darbar Hall of the Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad.
- Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, who is **currently serving as acting chief justice of Karnataka High Court**, did his Bachelor of Laws from Dr Harisingh Gour University, Sagar, in 1983.
- Appointed as the **Senior Advocate by the Madhya Pradesh High Court in 2003**, and got elevated as a Judge of the high court in 2009. He was transferred to Karnataka High Court in January this year and later assumed charge as the Acting Chief Justice in August.
- He is also on the **Advisory Board of National Law Institute University, Bhopal**, and has published numerous research and papers.

Telangana IT minister says more than 24 % of 32 billion dollars' worth of investments in last 7 years came from existing investors

- Telangana IT minister KT Rama Rao (KTR) **has said more than 24 percent of 32 billion dollars'** worth of investments that the state attracted in the last seven years have come from the existing investors. Participating virtually as the **chief guest in the Public Affairs Forum of India's 8th national forum**, he said often states overlook the existing investors and that is where Telangana does best.
- He said the existing investors were taken care of, they become biggest brand ambassadors.
- He further added that when institutions outlive individuals and perceptions, it brings in predictability, comfort and policy continuity.
- He further said the state government has appointed young professionals who guide the investors with the policies and infrastructure in a very professional manner while working under the banner of '**Invest Telangana**'.

Uttar Pradesh

Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated 29th Hunar Haat in Uttar Pradesh

- **Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan** has inaugurated the 29th Hunar Haat at Rampur in Uttar Pradesh.
- The Hunar Haat is being **organised by the Union Ministry for Minority Affairs** as a part of a series of **75 Hunar Haat** to be organised across the country under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The Hunar Haat are proving instrumental in providing branding and market to the skillful artisans and craftsmen and the products displayed at Hunar Haat are also available on Government-e-Marketplace i.e. GeM.
- Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal were also present on the occasion.
- Over 700 artisans and craftsmen from across the nation are participating in the Hunar Haat which will go on till 25th October. Various cultural programmes are also scheduled daily to attract crowd to the Hunar Haat.

Uttarakhand

Amit Shah has launched Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana in Dehradun

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah is on a day-long visit to Uttarakhand.
- He has launched Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana in Dehradun.
- Shah will address party's public representative and attend the BJP's core group meeting in Dehradun. Shah will go to Haridwar in the evening to attend a function of Dev Sanskriti University. He will also go to Harihar Ashram and meet the saints.
- The objective of Mukhymantri Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana is to eliminate the burden of more than three lakh rural women of the state living in mountainous regions. Under this scheme, packaged silage or safe green fodder will be provided at their doorstep.

Revision Points

State/UT	Chief Minister	Governor
Andhra Pradesh	YS Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Arunachal Pradesh	Pema Khandu	B. D. Mishra (Retd.)
Assam	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel	Sushri Anusuiya Uikay
Delhi	Arvind Kejriwal	
Goa	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Bhupendra Patel	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Manohar Lal	Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Jairam Thakur	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Jharkhand	Hemant Soren	Ramesh Bais
Karnataka	Basavaraj Bommai	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Uddhav Thackeray	Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Manipur	N. Biren Singh	La. Ganesan
Meghalaya	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
Mizoram	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr. Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Neiphiu Rio	Jagdish Mukhi
Odisha	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Charanjit Singh Channi	Banwarilal Purohit
Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	M.K.Stalin	R. N. Ravi
Telangana	K Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	Satyadeo Narain Arya
Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Gurmit Singh
West Bengal	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar
Puducherry (UT)	N Rangaswamy	

List of Governors & Administrators

Union Territory	Lt. Governor & Administrator
Andaman and Nicobar Island	Admiral D K Joshi
Chandigarh	Banwarilal Purohit
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	Praful Patel
Delhi (NCT)	Anil Baijal
Jammu and Kashmir	Manoj Sinha
Lakshadweep	Praful Patel
Puducherry	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)
Ladakh	Radha Krishna Mathur

Important National News

Union government has organised Vayo Naman Programme in honour of senior citizens

- The **Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry** will organise the **Vayo Naman Programme** in the honour of senior citizens on the occasion of the **International Day of Older Persons** in New Delhi.
- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu will be the chief guest of the programme and will confer the **Vayoshesha Samman** awards.
- The Vice President will also dedicate the **Elderly Help Line 14567** to the Nation and launch the **Senior Able Citizens Reemployment in Dignity (SACRED)** and **Senior Care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE)** Portals on this occasion.

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- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister **Dr. Virendra Kumar** will also be present in the programme.
- The Ministry celebrates International Day of Older Persons every year on 1st of October for the cause of elderly persons.

Youth Affairs minister has launched a month-long Clean India Programme from Prayagraj

- Anurag Thakur, who holds the **Youth Affairs and Sports** portfolio has launched a month-long **Clean India Programme from Prayagraj** as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- This programme will continue **till October 31**.
- The aim of the cleanliness drive is to create awareness, mobilize people and ensure their involvement in cleaning waste, mainly Single Use Plastic waste throughout the country.
- **This programme is being organised in six lakh villages of 744 districts across the country** through the networks of **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan-NYKS** affiliated Youth Clubs and National Service Scheme-affiliated institutions.

Prime Minister launches the Jal Jeevan Mission App for improving awareness among stakeholders

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will interact with **Gram Panchayats** and **Pani Samitis** and **Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC)** on **Jal Jeevan Mission**.
- The Prime Minister will launch the **Jal Jeevan Mission App** for improving awareness among stakeholders and for greater transparency and accountability of schemes under the Mission.
- Mr Modi will also launch **Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh**, where any individual, institution, corporate, or philanthropist, be it in India or abroad, can contribute to help provide tap water connection in every rural household, school, anganwadi centre, ashramshala, and other public institutions.
- **Nation-wide Gram Sabhas on Jal Jeevan Mission will also take place.** The Gram Sabhas will discuss planning and management of village water supply systems and also work towards long-term water security.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: Amit Shah to flag off 7,500 kilometers Car rally by NSG:

- **Home Minister Amit Shah** has flagged off **All India Car Rally of the National Security Guard – Sudarshan Bharat Parikrama** from the historic Red Fort in Delhi under the ongoing **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**.
- **Government is celebrating the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to revive and instill in youth**, the spirit and sacrifices of the unsung Martyrs and Freedom Fighters.
- During its **seven thousand 500 kilometers long journey**, the **National Security Guard**, car rally has passes through important and historical places associated with the Freedom Movement and Freedom Fighters of the country. The rally will end on 30th of october at the Police Memorial in New Delhi.
- Mr Shah has also flagged-in the cycle rallies of the Central Armed Police Forces, which started from different parts of the country, such as Dandi, the North East and Leh to Kanyakumari, concluding in New Delhi.

Centre to start procurement of paddy under MSP scheme in Punjab & Haryana:

- Union Government has decided that the procurement of **paddy under Minimum Support Price operation will commence from 11th october in Punjab and Haryana.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ministry** has advised all agencies to gear up to help farmers.
- The widespread rainfall has been experienced across Punjab and Haryana during second fortnight of September this year. Untimely showers have affected the standing paddy crop in both the agrarian states.
- **State Government of Punjab and Haryana** have also been requested to advise their agencies to dry the paddy already arrived and further produce may be brought to the mandi after proper drying.
- **The decision to start the procurement of Paddy under MSP from 11th October in Punjab and Haryana** is in the overall interest of farmers and consumers

Expert group for minimum wages reconstituted

- Barely three months after the committee was set up, the **Labour Ministry reconstituted the expert group responsible for determining the national floor level minimum wages under the Code on Wages.**
- Economist and statistician **SP Mukherjee** will lead the 9-member group.
- **Ajit Mishra, who headed the previous panel, excused himself from discharging his duty on account of his personal and other professional commitments.**
- The group includes **Arup Mitra of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) and Rupa Chanda of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore** were added as members to the group along with a representative from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- The group has been constituted for a period of three years and will continue to provide technical inputs to the ministry going forward.

Additional Information

- Prior to the wage code in **August 2019, the Labour Ministry had set up a similar committee chaired by Prof Anoop Satpathy.**
- **In January 2019, the seven-member committee suggested a national minimum wage at Rs 375 per day or Rs 9,750 per month irrespective of sectors, skills, occupations and rural-urban locations.**
- It also suggested a monthly housing allowance of **Rs 1,430 for city-based workers.**

Additional Information

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- It also suggested a monthly housing allowance of **Rs 1,430 for city-based workers.**

DAC approves Defence Procurement worth Rs. 13,165 crores

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) under the Chairmanship of Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** approved the **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for defence procurement worth Rs. 13,165 crores for modernisation of Indian Armed Forces.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- **87% (Rs. 11,486 crores) of the Rs. 13,165 crores were approved** for domestic procurement to boost 'Make in India' in the Defence Sector.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to manufacture **25 Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mark III helicopters for the Indian Army at an approximate cost of Rs. 3,850 crores.**

Cabinet Approval on September 29, 2021

- The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the following **important initiatives on September 29, 2021.**

Modification:

- Cabinet has approved renaming **the Mid-Day Meal Scheme into PM POSHAN (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman).**
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the listing of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) Ltd., an **unlisted Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) through the Initial Public Offer (IPO) on the Stock Exchange under the SEBI's (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018.**

New road project connecting Surat and Chennai - Nitin Gadkari

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari announced a new ambitious road project connecting Surat in Gujarat and Chennai in Tamil Nadu.**
- The new green field road will cover **Surat-Nashik-Ahmadnagar-Solapur-Chennai** with the cost of **50 thousand crore rupees.**
- He also **inaugurated a Highway Project in Ahmadnagar district of Maharashtra.**
- The traffic congestion will be removed due to this road network and a total of 1,150 hectares of land will be acquired for this project.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has launched a web portal

- Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav has launched a web portal - indianwetlands.in** on the occasion of **Gandhi Jayanti and heralding the Iconic Week of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav of the Ministry.** The portal is a single point access to all information relating to wetlands.
- The portal is a dynamic system for processing information and making it available to the stakeholders in an efficient and accessible manner
- The portal would be populated by **the different States and UTs and additional features may be added in the coming months.** The portal also enables citizen engagement
- Currently citizens can register themselves and upload wetland related pictures across different themes. The portal has been developed under a Technical Cooperation project "Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection" Wetlands Project of Ministry of Environment, **Forest and Climate Change in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The project is commissioned by the **German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety BMU** under the International Climate Initiative IKI.

World's largest Khadi National Flag Installed in Ladakh:

- **World's largest Khadi national flag** was installed at Leh in Ladakh on the occasion of **Gandhi Jayanti**. It was inaugurated by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur.
- The tricolor, which is **225-feet long and 150-feet wide, weighs around 1,000 kg**. The flag has been made by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** and was displayed by 57 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army
- Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane was also present along with other army officials during the inauguration of the flag.
- The flag measuring **225 ft by 150 ft and weighing 1000 kgs**, is the largest hand woven and hand spun Cotton Khadi Flag ever manufactured in India by the Khadi Village and Industries Commission affiliated Mumbai based Khadi Dyers and Printers.
- **Sura-Soi Engineer Regiment** was entrusted with the responsibility of installing the National Flag at the top of the high mountains
- KVIC has created the largest symbol of patriotism for the people of the country.

15th Edition of Indo-Nepal Joint Training Exercise – Uttarakhand

- The **15th Edition of Indo-Nepal Joint Training Exercise, EXERCISE SURYA KIRAN XV** culminated at **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand** after 14 days of rigorous training.
- The Joint Exercise, which began on 20 September, was focused on **Counter Terrorism and Disaster Relief operations**. The exercise also provided an opportunity to troops of both Armies to foster everlasting professional and social bonding.
- After intense military training, **the joint exercise concluded with both Armies exhibiting their combat power** and dominance over the terrorist groups during the validation exercise. The closing ceremony showcased the immense talent with unique traditional touch of both Nations.
- **The exercise will go a long way in future strengthening the bonds between the Armed Forces of both countries**

Mansukh Mandaviya to virtually inaugurate the Iconic week

- Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** has virtually inaugurated **Iconic week** under which various activities will be organized across the country.
- Department of Pharmaceuticals has celebrate the iconic week from **4th to 10th October** with the **theme Story Of Pharma @75: Future Opportunities**.
- Under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana has organised Health Check up Camps and free distribution of **First Aid kits at 750 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras across the country on 10th October**.
- It has also conduct Jan Aushadi Paricharircha where **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras owners and distributors will interact with Doctors and health workers** for spreading awareness on generic drugs.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Power Ministry promulgates Electricity Rules 2021 to regulate Transmission System Planning:

- The Power Ministry has promulgated the Electricity (Transmission System Planning, Development and Recovery of Inter-State Transmission Charges) Rules 2021.
- This paves the way for overhauling of transmission system planning, towards giving power sector utilities easier access to the electricity transmission network across the country.
- At present, generating companies apply for long-term access based on their supply tie-ups, while medium-term and short-term transmission access is acquired within the available margins.
- Based on Long Term Access application, incremental transmission capacity is added. A number of sector developments, such as the increasing focus on renewable energy, and the development of the market mechanism, necessitated a review of the existing transmission planning framework based on LTA.

Govt Extended the Validity of ECLGS till March 31, 2022

- To support the various businesses impacted by the second wave of COVID 19, the government has decided to extend the timeline of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) till March 31, 2022, or till guarantees for an amount of Rs 4.5 lakh crore are issued under the scheme, whichever is earlier.
- The last date of disbursement under the scheme was also extended to June 30, 2022.
- Since its launch, ECLGS has extended relief to over 1.15 crore Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and businesses for meeting their operational liabilities and restarting their businesses that were affected by COVID-19.
- As of 24th September 2021, loans sanctioned under ECLGS have crossed Rs. 2.86 lakh crore and out of which, about 95 percent of the loans were issued for MSMEs

Bhupender Yadav launched 'DigiSaksham' in collaboration with Microsoft India to boost Youth Employment

- As a move to further extend the Central Government's effort of supporting youth from rural and semi-urban areas, on September 30, 2021, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Labour and Employment launched DigiSaksham in collaboration with Microsoft India.
- It aims to enhance youth employment opportunities in these areas by imparting digital skills.
- Microsoft India has also roped in Aga Khan Rural Support Programme-India and its knowledge partner TMI e2E Academy for rolling out this initiative.

NITI Aayog – Released Report on District Hospitals in India; Tie up with AWS, Intel to Boosts Innovation

- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), the Government of India's national policy think tank, released a performance assessment report of district hospitals in India titled 'Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals'.
- NITI Aayog conducted the study in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO (World Health Organisation) India.
- NITI Aayog ties up with AWS, Intel to Boost Innovation
- NITI Aayog tie-up with Intel and Amazon Web Services (AWS) to establish a new experience studio at the NITI Aayog Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC).

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The studio will act as a hub for experimentation and collaboration with a focus on agriculture, health care, and smart infrastructure.

PM Launched 2nd Phases of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, AMRUT

- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi launched the second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U 2.0) and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0).

Panjayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh Launched PPC 2021, Gram Sabha Dashboard

- The union minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Giriraj Singh launched the People's Plan Campaign (PPC) 2021- Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas and Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard.
- He released a booklet on PPC 2021 for the preparation of plans for FY23 and the 10th issue of Gramoday Sankalp Magazine.
- The PPC 2021 was scheduled to be rolled out in all the States from 2nd October 2021.

Mansukh Mandaviya launched delivery of COVID-19 vaccine by drone in Manipur

- The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya has launched delivery of COVID-19 vaccine by Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) or drone in Bishnupur district of Manipur.
- Shri Mandaviya also launched the initiative through virtual mode from Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The delivery of COVID-19 vaccine by drone is being taken up by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under its project- Drone Resource and Outreach in North East India (i-DRONE).
- Covering a distance of 25 kilometres, the drone-based vaccine transportation took approximately 15 minutes to deliver which, otherwise will take about one hour to deliver through road transport.
- According to ICMR officials, vaccine delivery from 'plain to island' is the first in SouthEast Asia.
- ICMR officials also mentioned that the i-DRONE project was started for the first time in Manipur to field test vaccine delivery in difficult terrains of the country with study sites selected from four districts.

40th edition of India International Trade Fair 2021 to be held in New Delhi

- The 40th edition of India International Trade Fair 2021 will be held from 14th to 27th November at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- This year the theme of the fair is Atmanirbhar Bharat which will focus on economy, export potential, infrastructure supply chain, demand and vibrant demography.
- The event is being organised as integral part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava"- commemorating the 75th year celebration of India's Independence in newly built halls of International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) as well as in the existing halls at Pragati Maidan.
- Apart from trade and industry related conference and seminars, the fair offers branding opportunity on large LED screens installed at strategic locations in fair premises.

Defence Secretary launched website for Republic Day Celebrations – 2022

- Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar has launched a website for Republic Day Celebrations - 2022.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- To showcase the Republic Day Celebrations, which will mark the 75th year of Independence-Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, **Ministry of Defence has created a new website: www.indianrdc.mod.gov.in.**
- The website will be a single-point official source for all the content related to Republic Day Celebrations.
- The website includes features like a special **RDC Radio, Gallery, Interactive Filters, E-book, Blogs on the Indian Freedom Movement, Wars and War Memorials.**

PM to inaugurate Urban Conclave in Lucknow and also lay foundation stones of 75 urban projects & schemes in Uttar Pradesh

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the New Urban India: **Transforming Urban Landscape, Conference-cum-Expo at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.**
- The three-day conclave on the subject is being organised at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow **under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.** On this occasion, the Prime Minister has also inaugurated and **lay the foundation stones of 75 urban projects or schemes.**
- Prime Minister will digitally handover keys of **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) houses to 75,000 beneficiaries** in 75 districts of state and will also interact virtually with beneficiaries of the scheme.
- Prime Minister has announced the setting up of **Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chair in Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU), Lucknow.** On the occasion, 75 best housing techniques and technologies would also be showcased.
- The event is being **organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. **It is themed on transforming urban landscape with specific focus on the transformative changes** brought about in Uttar Pradesh

Om Birla visit Rome to attend G20 Parliamentary Speakers Summit

- An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Lok Sabha speaker **Om Birla left for Rome to attend the G20 Parliamentary Speakers Summit.**
- The delegation comprises Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha Harivansh, Secretary General, Lok Sabha Utpal Kumar Singh and Secretary General, Rajya Sabha Dr. P.P.K. Ramacharyulu.
- The overall **theme of the summit is Parliaments for People, Planet and Prosperity. A Joint Statement will be adopted at the end of the Summit.**
- Lok Sabha Speaker will participate in Session -1 on **the theme "Response to the Social and Employment Crisis caused by the Pandemic.**
- On the sidelines of the extant Summit, Mr Birla will also hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from other participating Parliaments.

Health Minister has released UNICEF's publication "The State of the World's Children 2021"

- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has released **UNICEF's global flagship publication - "The State of the World's Children 2021; On My Mind: promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health** in New Delhi.
- The report details the significant impact of COVID-19 pandemic on children's mental health.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- This is very vital to address mental health as an important aspect for creating a healthy society. Mansukh noted that teachers are very important stakeholders for addressing mental health issues along with parents and family.
- **UNICEF India Representative Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque** presented some key findings of the report.
- As per the report, **around 14 percent of 15 to 24-year-olds in India, or 1 in 7 of them**, reported often feeling **depressed** or having little interest in doing things.

Coal Ministry set up panel to review project execution timeline

- The Coal Ministry has constituted a panel **to review and benchmark the timelines in project execution.**
- The committee has been set up under **the chairmanship of Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor** comprising of **representatives from NTPC, IOCL, PGCIL and Director (T), ECL** as member secretary.
- **The objective of the committee** is to suggest a robust and efficient set of timelines and whether statutory clearances **may be obtained prior to issuing tender.**
- The panel will also review tendering process by examining tenders **having a value of more than Rs 300 crore of Coal India Limited (CIL), its subsidiaries and other PSUs.**

Note:

- Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output. The company is eyeing one billion tonnes of production target by 2023-24.

Electricity Rules 2021 promulgated for Transmission System Planning; GNA introduced

- The Ministry of Power reviewed the existing transmission planning framework based on long-term access (LTA) **which resulted in the promulgation of the Electricity (Transmission System Planning, Development and Recovery of Inter-State Transmission Charges) Rules 2021 on October 3, 2021.**
- Also, for the first time, **these rules have enabled that the transmission capacity can be sold, shared or purchased by the states and generators as per their requirements.**
- These rules saw the introduction **of General Network Access (GNA)** which will ease the **power generating companies to get an easier access to the electricity transmission network** across the country or inter-state.

Piyush Goyal addresses inaugural session of ICRIER's 13th Annual International G-20 Conference

- Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** has addressed the **Inaugural Session of the ICRIER's 13th Annual International G-20 Conference.**
- **The G20 is the international forum that brings together the world's major economies. Its members account for more than 80 per cent of world GDP, 75 per cent of global trade and 60 per cent of the population of the planet.**
- The entire world understands that in this Interconnected and Interdependent World, **no one is safe until everyone is safe.**
- It is imperative to tackle this pandemic on the one hand, to ensure vaccination for everybody and also serious research on finding a cure for Covid-19.
- **AatmaNirbhar Bharat** is not about closing India's doors to engagements with the world but it is actually opening the doors wider. the G20 to play a leadership role for People, Planet and Collective Prosperity.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Government approves setting up of 7 Mega Integrated Textile & Apparel Parks

- The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of **seven Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks with a total outlay of four thousand 445 crore rupees** over five years by Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal
- This move is inspired by the Five-F vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which is Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.
- **PM MITRA Park will be developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle which will be owned by State Governments and the Government of India in a Public-Private Partnership Mode.** The Master Developer will not only develop the Industrial Park, but also maintain it during the concession period.
- **The Union Government will also provide a fund of 300 crore rupees for each PM MITRA Park** to incentivize manufacturing units to get established.
- The Cabinet also approved the **Productivity Linked Bonus equivalent to 78 days' wage for eligible non-gazetted Railway employees** excluding RPF or RPSF personnel for financial year 2020-21.

Govt to set up 75 Science Technology and Innovation Hubs exclusively for SCs & STs

- Union Minister **Jitendra Singh has stated that the government will set up 75 Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs** in different parts of the country.
- These hubs will be exclusively for **Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)** and will not only promote scientific talent, but also contribute to socio-economic development of these communities.
- After a **high level review meeting with senior officials of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in New Delhi.**
- In the last two years, **20 STI Hubs have already been established which will directly benefit 20 thousand SC and ST population** through various interventions.
- This decision has been taken in tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and resolve to **handhold the weaker sections and raise them at par with other sections of society**

MoEF&CC launched guidelines for Ecotourism & for Monitoring Dolphins

- The Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) released the **'Guidelines for sustainable Ecotourism in forest and wildlife areas'** to promote a better understanding of nature and wildlife conservation during the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti (October 2, 2021) and indicating the **Iconic Week of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav of MoEFCC (4-10th October 2021).**
- These will be applicable for sites in forests, wildlife areas and eco-sensitive zones.

Addl.Info:

- He released a **field guide for monitoring Ganges and Indus River dolphins**, associated **aquatic fauna and habitat.**
- It is for the first time that **a standardized monitoring protocol has been made for synchronised dolphin exercise.**
- This exercise will be undertaken in the **8 states of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab.**

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- This will be an important constituent of “**Project Dolphin**” which was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **August 15, 2020** to save both river and marine dolphins.
- He has also launched a web portal on the ‘**Wetlands of India Portal**’, which will act as single-point access to all information relating to wetlands.
- He flagged off a rally on wheels ‘**India for Tigers**’.
- He flagged off the Tiger rallies from three tiger reserves **Navegaon Nagzira tiger reserve- Maharashtra, Biligiri ranganatha temple tiger reserve, Kamataka and Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.**

India's first vertical lift railway bridge to be completed by March 2022

- The Ministry of Railways announced that the construction work of the new 2.05 km **Pamban railway bridge in Mandapam will be completed by March 2022.**
- The bridge will connect Rameswaram to the mainland in Tamil Nadu.
- It will be **India's first vertical lift railway bridge over the sea.**
- Railway Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) is developing the sea bridge with the cost of Rs 250 crore.
- The new bridge has **100 spans of 18.3 meters and one navigational span of 63 meters.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the project in March 2019 at Kanyakumari.

Objective of the new bridge

- It will allow the Indian Railways to operate trains at a higher speed with more weight.
- It will also increase traffic between the mainland of Pamban and Rameswaram.
- **Note:** The proposed new facility will have electro-mechanical controlled systems which will be interlocked with train control systems.

i-Drone: South Asia's 1st Indian drone to deliver COVID-19 Vaccines launched by Mansukh Mandaviya

- **Union Minister Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) launched a delivery model namely 'ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach in North East (i-Drone)'.**
- This will ensure the reach of life-saving vaccines to everyone. ICMR stands for New Delhi based Indian Council of Medical Research.
- **ICMR tested the vaccine delivery capacity of drones in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) on the basis of which the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and other regulatory authorities have granted permission to fly drones Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLoS).**
- **Indian Drone used for the 1st time in South Asia for Vaccine Delivery**

Hardeep Singh Puri has inaugurated 62 PSA Medical Oxygen Generation Plants

- **Minister for Petroleum and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri virtually inaugurated 62 Pressure Swing Adsorption PSA Medical Oxygen Generation Plants installed in public health facilities across the country.**
- Oil and Gas fraternity of India has risen to the occasion to reach out to fellow citizens and serve the people of India.

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- The vital role played by Oil and Gas Public Sector Enterprises during the second wave of Covid-19, saying that these companies served the nation in **critical times by supplying High-purity oxygen from their refineries and converted several LNG tankers into medical grade oxygen carriers to strengthen the medical oxygen logistics in the country.**
- The **62 PSA Medical Oxygen Plants** shall meet the medical oxygen needs of over **11 thousand beds across 62 hospitals in several states**

Second meeting of India-UK Joint Working Group on Cyber Capacity Building

- The second meeting of the **India-UK Joint Working Group on Cyber Capacity Building** was held through video conferencing.
- The Indian delegation was led by **Atul Malhari Gotsurve, Joint Secretary (Cyber Diplomacy) from Ministry of External Affairs.**
- The **UK delegation was led by Andrew Dinsley, Head of Cyber Programmes, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.**
- It was held under aegis of the India-UK Framework for Cyber Relationship and in support of the Enhanced Cyber Security partnership agreed in the **India-UK 2030 Roadmap.**
- The first meeting of JWG on Capacity Building was held in **March last year in New Delhi.**

New Tiger Reserve: Chhattisgarh

- **The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** has designated the combined areas of the **Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve.**
- It is located in the **northern part of Chhattisgarh, bordering Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.**
- Approval was granted under **Section 38V(1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- This will be the **fourth Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh, after the Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar and Indravati Reserves**

Addl.Info:

- NTCA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, established in 2005 for strengthening tiger conservation.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- Under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, the **Tourism Ministry sanctioned 5 projects of Rs 325.53 crore** for Buddhist circuit development.
- It has also organised a **Buddhist Circuit Train FAM Tour** as part of the Union government's **Dekho Apna Desh initiative.**
- The tour covers the **destinations Gaya-Bodhgaya, Rajgir-Nalanda in Bihar as well as Samath-Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.**

NTPC & Électricité de France Signed MoU for Cooperation in International Power Project

- NTPC Limited, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Électricité de France(EDF)**, a French energy company, for cooperation in the development of International Power Projects in the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Africa.

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- This MoU is in line with the NTPC's roadmap for the development of clean energy projects across the globe.
- Under this partnership, NTPC and EDF will jointly explore the possibilities of power projects development in the countries of mutual interest.

Addl.Info:

- Under this collaboration NTPC aims to expand its portfolio of power generation assets across the globe.
- NTPC and EDF will collaborate in knowledge sharing, Research & Development(R&D), technical services and consultancy assignments.
- The collaboration between NTPC and EDF will increase competitiveness in the international market.

Cabinet approves Productivity Linked Bonus to Railway Employees for FY21;

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the following,

- Cabinet approves **Productivity Linked Bonus to railway employees** for the financial year 2020-21 Government has approved setting up of **7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel**.
- Cabinet approved the Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) for FY2020-21 that is equivalent to 78 days' wages.
- It is for all eligible non-gazetted Railway employees excluding RPF (Railway Protection Force) /RPSF (Railway Protection Special Force) personnel.
- On the lines of the Union Budget 2021-22 announcement, the Union Cabinet approved the setting up of 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) parks with a total outlay of Rs 4,445 crore for five years period.
- This decision has been taken to make India at par with the global textiles.

NHA hiked HBP Rates under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

- The **National Health Authority (NHA) revised the Health Benefit Package (HBP 2.2) of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) under which the rate of around 400 procedures increased by 20% to 400%.**
- The AB PM-JAY scheme is implemented by NHA.
- This revision saw an addition of a new medical package related to black fungus management.
- The categories involved in this revision include radiation oncology procedures (for cancer), medical management procedures, and other procedures like right/left heart catheterisation, arthrodesis, cholecystectomy, appendicectomy etc.

Addl.Info:

- Launched in 2018 with HBP 1.0 covering 1,393 packages, it aims to achieve the target of universal health coverage and provide access to free and affordable healthcare services to the citizens residing in the remotest of the areas.
- It aims to provide free and cashless healthcare services up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year to over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families (over 53 crore beneficiaries) as per Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)-2011 database.

IFSCA Launches Global FinTech Hackathon Series

- On Oct 07, 2021, The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** and GIFT City launched the **global FinTech Hackathon Series 'I-Sprint'21'**.
- The first Sprint of the series "**Sprint01: BankTech**" is focussed on FinTechs for the Banking sector.

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- Sprint01: BankTech is hosted jointly by IFSCA and GIFT city in collaboration with NITI Aayog.
- The Partners to the Hackathon are ICICI Bank, HSBC Bank, iCreate, Zone Startups and Invest-India.
- The Price money for this hackathon is Rs 24 lakh

The aim of the Hackathon is:

- To connect IFSCA and GIFT IFSC with FinTech Ecosystem
- To solve Business Problems for the Banking Units at GIFT IFSC and
- To promote retail business for the Banking Units at GIFT IFSC.

Textile Ministry signs MoU with Germany to boost Sustainable Cotton Production

- The World Cotton Day, India's Ministry of Textiles (MoT) supported by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Germany's Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to implement projects on 'Sustainability and Value Added in the Cotton Economy'**.
- The agreement was signed on Implementation Agreement of Indo German Technical Cooperation Project.
- The objective of the project is **'to increase the value addition from sustainable cotton production in India by focusing on sustainable cotton, and strengthening of downstream processing'**.
- The partnership targets to increase cotton production **on 90,000 hectares of land in 4 States (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu)** to increase the yield of Cotton by 10%, thereby supporting 1.5 lakh farmers.
- The Textile Ministry will constitute a Steering committee to review its projects through **Nodal officers in the 4 states**.

Addl.Info:

- India is the **World's largest Cotton producer & the 2nd largest Consumer of cotton** (5.15 million Metric Tons)
- 'Shelf to Field' approach: Under this collaboration, projects will be implemented with strategies to link cotton consumers with cotton growers, thereby increasing transparency in the system. Sustainability Standards will be implemented to reduce water footprint in cotton production, to reduce water stress in climate change prone areas.

Government Releases First Comprehensive Guidelines for the Cyber Security in Power Sector

- The government of India has released **1st guidelines for cybersecurity in the power sector**.
- These guidelines were released **under the direction of Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister Raj Kumar Singh and the Central Electricity Authority (CEA)**.
- Objective is **to create a cyber secure ecosystem and strengthen the regulatory framework**.
- This is the first time the comprehensive guidelines for cybersecurity in the power sector were framed by the CEA.
- Under the provision of Section 3(10) on Cyber Security in the **"Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Connectivity to the Grid) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019"**, the CEA has framed the guidelines.
- It is **mandatory to all stakeholders to focus on providing cyber hygiene, training of all IT (Information Technology) personnel on Cyber Security, constructing Cyber Testing Laboratories in the country**.
- It will provide better facilities and solutions for tackling challenges related to cybersecurity in the power sector.

India Joins High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

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- India officially joined the **High Ambition Coalition (HAC)** for Nature and People during a ceremony between the French and Indian governments held at New Delhi, India.
- In this regard, Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, Secretary, **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**, Government of India handed over the signed HAC agreement to Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India.
- This joining comes ahead of high-level biodiversity meeting to be virtually hosted by China on October 11-15, 2021.

PM Modi has launched first ever National Infrastructure Masterplan 'PM Gati Shakti'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched **the first ever National Infrastructure Masterplan, Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti**. The Gati Shakti scheme was announced by Modi on Independence Day this year.
- This will bring together **16 Ministries, including seven core infrastructure sectors, on one platform to synergise project planning** across stakeholder ministries to avoid duplication, expedite clearances and plug gaps at the right time.
- The Gati Shakti Master Plan will provide the framework for the National Infrastructure Pipeline program and is aimed at making Indian products more competitive by cutting down the logistics costs and improving the supply chains.
- The new initiative worth over **one hundred lakh crore rupees** will also bring employment opportunities to the youth. The plan is to attract investment from all over the world for improving the infrastructure of the country.

External Affairs Minister has visited Kyrgyzstan capital for bilateral meeting

- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** has visited **Kyrgyzstan as part of his four-day visit to Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan and Armenia**.
- He is delighted to visit Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan at the invitation of **Foreign Affairs Minister of Kyrgyzstan Ruslan Kazakbae**.
- Dr Jaishankar has hold a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan apart from calling on the **President of Kyrgyz Republic**. Some agreements or MoUs are also expected to be signed during the visit.
- He will attend **the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the Conference of Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, CICA in Nur-Sultan**.
- Kazakhstan is the current Chair and initiator of the CICA Forum. Dr Jaishankar is also expected to hold bilateral talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan and call on the Kazakh leadership.

Narendra Modi has launched Indian Space Association (ISpA) through video conferencing

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched **Indian Space Association (ISpA)** through video conferencing.
- He will also interact with representatives of the Space Industry on this landmark occasion.
- AIR correspondent reports, **ISpA is the Premier Industry Association of Space and Satellite companies**, which aspires to be the collective voice of the Indian Space industry.
- ISpA is represented by leading home grown and global corporations with advanced capabilities in space and satellite technologies. Its founding members include **Larson & Toubro, Nelco (Tata Group), OneWeb, Bharti Airtel, Mapmyindia, Walchandnagar Industries and Ananth Technology Limited**.

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- Other core members include Godrej, Hughes India, Azista-BST Aerospace Private Limited, BEL, Centum Electronics, Maxar India.
- Echoing the **Prime Minister's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, ISpA will help in making India self-reliant, technologically advanced and a leading player in the space arena.

India and Denmark has signed Four agreements

- **India and Denmark have inked four agreements** and decided to expand cooperation following bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his **Danish counterpart Mette Frederiksen in New Delhi**.
- The agreements were signed in the field of **Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Traditional Knowledge Digital Library**, on establishing a Centre of Excellence towards natural refrigerants for tropical climates with potential applications and on mapping of ground water resources and aquifers.
- The two countries also decided to **expand ties in the fields of health and agriculture**.
- India and Denmark have continued their cooperation even during the pandemic.
- India and Denmark are two democratic nations and both believe in **an international system based on rules**.

3rd India – UK Energy For Growth Partnership – Ministerial Energy Dialogue

- **India and the United Kingdom** have agreed upon a '**Forward Action Plan**' on power, clean transportation, renewables, green finance, and research as part of the 2030 roadmap.
- It was co-chaired by Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, **Shri R.K. Singh** from the Indian side and the **Rt Hon KwasiKwarteng** MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) from the UK side.
- The Forward Action Plan was discussed at the 3rd India-UK Energy for Growth Partnership – Ministerial Energy Dialogue comes in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-26), that will start from 31 October in Glasgow.
- The action plan covers a range of topics including smart grids, energy storage, green hydrogen, charging infrastructure, battery storage and the need of mobilizing investments in renewable energy along with other proposals under multilateral collaboration.
- Energy Transition was a major area of discussion in the dialogue & detail on the ongoing Energy Transition activities in their respective countries with focus on renewables, including solar, offshore wind, storage, EVs, alternative fuels.

Note :

- Green hydrogen is produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using an electrolyser powered by electricity from renewable energy sources such as wind and solar can be a game changer for India, which imports 85% of its oil and 53% of gas demand.

Power Ministry Revised Policy to Use Biomass Pellets in Coal-Burning Thermal Power Plants

- The Ministry of Power, Government of India, has set a revised **policy to use biomass pellets in coal-burning thermal power plants**.
- This encourages the use of agricultural waste, which will be burnt by the farmers causes air pollution.

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Addl.Info:

- **The paddy stalks and straws burned by the farmers of North India to prepare for the lands for planting causes air pollution which results in the formation of smog over North India.**

Govt Approved Air India Disinvestment; Tata Sons Won the Bid for Acquiring Air India for Rs 18,000 Crore

- **Tata Sons Private Ltd subsidiary Talace Pvt Ltd has won the final bid for acquiring the national carrier Air India by submitting Rs 18,000 crore bid.**
- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) – empowered Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) approved the highest price bid of Talace Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd.**
- **The bid involves sale of 100 percent stake AI (the shareholding of Government of India), 100 percent stake in AI's subsidiary Air India Express (AIXL) and 50 percent in the joint venture Air India SATS (Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited).**
- **The total permanent and contractual employee strength of Air India & AIXL is 13,500.**
- **The winning bid of Rs 18,000 crore as Enterprise Value (EV) does not include non-core assets including land and building, valued at Rs 14,718 crore, which are to be transferred to Gol's Air India Asset Holding Limited (AIAHL).**
- **The AISAM comprises Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah; Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman; Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.**

Highlights of the Fourth Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy of FY21-22

- **The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 6-members Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had met on 6th, 7th and 8th October 2021 and released its fourth bi-monthly monetary policy statement for FY22 (April 2021 – March 2022).**
- **Policy Rates:** RBI kept the rates unchanged (maintains status quo) for the 8th consecutive time i.e it decided to continue with the accommodative stance to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy
- **The MPC has retained India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection for FY22 at 9.5 percent with 7.9 percent in Q2; 6.8 percent in Q3; and 6.1 percent in Q4 of 2021-22.**
- **Real GDP growth for Q1 FY23 is projected at 17.2 per cent.**
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was projected at 5.3 percent in FY22, with 5.1 percent in Q2; 4.5 percent in Q3; and 5.8 percent in Q4.**

Federal Bank Upgraded its Mobile Banking App 'FedMobile'

- **Federal Bank has upgraded its mobile banking app 'FedMobile' with an investment platform equipped with superior wealth management capability for the convenience of its users.**
- **The upgraded module was launched in association with Equirus Wealth.**
- **The app allows a user to open an investment account in less than 2 minutes and start executing transactions instantly.**
- **The module offers an entire range of MFs across different categories such as equity, debt, hybrid and solution-oriented funds from all the leading asset management firms in the country.**

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- It enables customers to set up a **Systematic Investment Plan (SIP)**, a tool to invest money at regular intervals and **accumulate wealth over the long term.**

Federal Bank Authorised by RBI for Collection of Direct and Indirect Taxes

- The Federal Bank has been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **based on the recommendation of Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance, for collection of Direct and Indirect Taxes, on behalf of CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) and CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs).**
- Through the authorisation **would make it convenient for the customers to pay their Direct and Indirect taxes through the Bank's various digital platforms such as FedMobile (Mobile Banking app), FedNet (Net Banking), Fedebiz (Corporate Digital Banking) and through a wide branch network.**

Adani Finserv buys 10% stake in CSC Grameen eStore

- The Adani Finserv, a **financial services arm of Adani group has acquired 10% equity stake in the government's rural e commerce venture CSC Grameen eStore.**
- CSC (Common Service Centre) Grameen eStore is a **wholly-owned subsidiary of CSC e-Governance Services, a joint venture between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) and industry.**

PM Modi addresses 28th NHRC Foundation Day programme

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has Addresses the 28th National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Foundation Day programme through video conferencing.**
- Even after independence, India offered a new perspective and vision on equality and human rights to the world.
- The government is enabling facilities for the marginalised in the society and facilitating them with their basic needs and improved livelihood.
- That **the government ensured that all its reforms and actions are designed keeping in mind every individual of the society without any discrimination.**
- In the last seven years, **about 60 crore poor people have been taken care of and ten crore women have been provided with toilets and about four crore houses have been provided access to electricity.**
- **NHRC Chairperson Justice Retired Arun Kumar Mishra has called for a long term and effective plan for providing justice to the citizen.**

PM Modi to participate in G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit on Afghanistan

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has participated in the G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit on Afghanistan in virtual format.**
- The summit has been convened **by Italy, the current chair of the G20 that comprises 20 of the world's major economies.**
- The agenda of the meeting has included a discussion on response to humanitarian needs and access to basic services and livelihood. Security and the fight against terrorism, mobility, migration and human rights will also be discussed.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier **participated in the SCO - CSTO outreach Summit on Afghanistan.**

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- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar participated** in the meeting of G20 Foreign Ministers on Afghanistan on the margins of the **UN General Assembly in New York**.
- **The G20** is an important platform to help build international consensus and facilitate a coordinated approach between multilateral organizations, including the UN and its agencies, and global and regional actors to address the **worsening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan**.

CCI imposes penalty on two firms for bid rigging of GAIL tender

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a penalty upon two firms** for bid-rigging in tender floated by **Gas Authority of India Limited, GAIL**.
- These two firms are **PMP Infratech Pvt. Ltd. and Rati Engineering**. The CCI found them indulging in concerted practices leading to bid-rigging of the **tender floated in 2017-18 for the restoration of the well site located in Ahmedabad and Anand areas of Gujarat**.
- Based on the investigation, CCI found that the two firms were in regular touch with each other regarding the tender floated by GAIL and even after the submission of their bids.
- The CCI imposed a monetary penalty of **25 lakh rupees on PMP Infratech Pvt. Ltd., and 2.5 lakh rupees on Rati Engineering, and one lakh rupees and 50 thousand rupees** on their respective individuals who managed and controlled the firms, besides passing a cease-and-desist order.

CCEA approves fixation of nutrient based subsidy rates for Phosphatic & Potassic fertilizers- 2022

- **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy Rates for Phosphatic and Potassic fertilisers (P&K) for the year 2021-22**.
- The approved rate for Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) in case of Nitrogen has been fixed at **18.789 rupees per kilogram**, for Phosphorus it is **45.323 rupees per Kg**, for Potash **10.116 rupees per Kg** and **2.374 rupees per Kilogram for Sulphur**.
- The total amount of rollover will be **28 thousand 602 crore rupees** and a special one-time package of additional subsidy on **Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) at a tentative cost of 5 thousand 716 crore rupees** has also been provided.
- The net subsidy required for the rabi season for 2021-22 will be **28 thousand 655 crore rupees** after deducting savings. The CCEA also approved the inclusion of Potash derived from Molasses under the Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme.
- It will give **438 rupees per bag benefit on Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and 100 rupees per bag benefit on NPK grades** so as to maintain prices of these fertilizers affordable to the farmers.

Union Cabinet approves AMRUT 2.0 till 2025-26

- **The Union Cabinet has approved the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0) till 2025-26**. The Cabinet has providing reliable and affordable water supply and sanitation services to urban households is a national priority.

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- The decision is a step towards **AatmaNirbhar Bharat** and with aim of making the cities **water-secure and self-sustainable through a circular economy of water.**
- Taking forward the remarkable strides made under **AMRUT, AMRUT 2.0**, targets universal coverage of water supply by providing household tap connections in all four thousand 378 statutory towns.
- The mission targets to **provide two crore 68 lakh tap connections and two crore 64 lakh sewer and septage connections** to achieve the intended outcomes.
- The total indicative outlay **for AMRUT 2.0 is two lakh 77 thousand crore rupees** including a central share of 76 thousand 760 crore rupees for five years from **2021-22 to 2025-26.**

Coal Crisis in India: Govt Enabled Imported Coal Power Plants to Sell Un-requisitioned Power; Allowed 50% Sale of Coal from Captive Mines

- Even though **being the world's 2nd largest producer and consumer of coal (after China)**, currently India is facing a coal crisis.
- As per the data of the Ministry of Power, **coal stocks of the 135 thermal power plants of India reduced to an average of 4 days' worth of stock.**
- India consumed **124 billion units of power in August 2021** compared to **106 billion units of power in August 2019** (Prior to COVID-19).
- Govt Enabled Imported Coal Power Plants to Sell Un-Requisitioned Power
- Union Minister of Power and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy **R K Singh approved certain guidelines over the provisions of National Tariff Policy, 2016 and enabled imported coal-based plants (having sufficient coal) to operate and sell the un-requisitioned power in the power exchange.**
- **The provisions will apply for both the power plants whose tariff has been determined under Section-62 and those having PPA (power purchase agreement) under Section-63 of the Electricity Act, 2003.**
- If the procurer does not requisition (demand) power from the power plant with which he has signed the PPA, **24 hours in advance prior to midnight of the day of delivery of power**, the generator could sell the un-requisitioned power in the power exchange.

OneWeb Entered into Arrangement with NSIL to Launch Satellite

- **OneWeb (a venture backed by Bharti Airtel)**, has entered into an arrangement with **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, the commercial arm of ISRO, to use Indian-built PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) and the heavier GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) – MkIII as potential platforms to **launch OneWeb's satellites in India from 2022.**
- The arrangement was made through a non-binding letter of intent (LOI); could be converted into a binding one after board approval.

PM Launched Indian Space Association

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched **the Indian Space Association (ISpA)**, a private industry body to help **boost space technology in India.**

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- ISpA will participate and work with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and other stakeholders of both government and its agencies, on the issue of policy around space domain and technology.
- Its founding members include Larson & Toubro, Nelco (Tata Group), OneWeb, Bharti Airtel, Mapmyindia, Walchandnagar Industries, and Ananth Technology Limited among others.
- It will act as a single-window and independent agency on matters related to space technology.

India, Nepal sign agreements to boost cross-border train services

- India and Nepal have signed **two agreements** aimed at boosting cross-border train services and reviewed ongoing railway projects as part of efforts by the two countries to improve regional connectivity and trade.
- The agreements were inked as the two sides held the fifth meeting of a joint working group and the seventh meeting of a project steering committee in New Delhi during October 6-7 to review the implementation of cross-border railway links and bilateral cooperation in the railways sector.
- The signing of the **standard operating procedures (SOPs)** for starting passenger train services on the Jaynagar-Kurtha section will help finalise the technical aspects of running passenger trains in this region.
- The SOPs will also serve as a guiding document for the early start of services in upcoming cross-border railway links.
- Both sides signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Final Location Survey (FLS) of the proposed broad gauge railway line between Raxaul and Kathmandu.
- Both sides discussed the ongoing works of Jaynagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas and Jogbani-Biratnagar broad gauge railway lines between India and Nepal, being developed with grant assistance from Government of India.
- The technical preparedness of the completed **34 km long section** of the railway line, from **Jaynagar (India) to Kurtha (Nepal)** for operationalization of passenger train services was also reviewed.
- Both sides agreed to enhance technical cooperation in the railway sector, including in the areas of capacity building, logistic support and training of Nepali railway personnel.

Cabinet Approval on October 12, 2021

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its following approvals
- **The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) till 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs 1,41,600 crores w.e.f October 1, 2021.**
- It will be regarded as SBM-Urban 2.0 with the aim of 'Garbage Free' Urban India.
- The Union Cabinet also approved **the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0) till 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs 2,77,000 crore.**
- **It aims to make cities 'water secure' and 'self-sustainable' through circular economy of water.**
- The Union Cabinet cleared the proposal of affiliation of 100 schools, including both private and public, with the Sainik School Society, under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- CCEA approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Rates for P&K Fertilizers for the year 2021-22(from 1st October, 2021 to 31st March, 2022).

Power Finance Corporation receives Maharatna status

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- **Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) was accorded the status of 'Maharatna central public sector enterprise (CPSE)' by the Department of Public Enterprises, under the Ministry of Finance.**
- This status is giving the PFC for greater operational and financial autonomy.
- PFC is the largest infrastructure finance company exclusively dedicated to the power sector under the administrative control of the power ministry.

Maharatna status:

- With this, PFC can now invest up to ₹5,000 crore, or 15 percent of its net worth, in a single project.
- It enhances powers to the PFC board while taking financial decisions.

Other Maharatna CPSEs

- PFC is the 11th firm to join Maharatna CPSE club.
- The other 10 Maharatna CPSEs are Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd, Coal India Ltd, GAIL (India) Ltd, Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd, Indian Oil Corp. Ltd, NTPC Ltd, Oil & Natural Gas Corp. Ltd, Power Grid Corp. of India Ltd, and Steel Authority of India Ltd.

Note:

- There are 14 Navratna and 73 Miniratna CPSEs. Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs can invest up to Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 500 crore, respectively.

CRISP-M Tool for Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme Launched; Climate Resilient Program Started in 7 States

- Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Shri Giriraj Singh virtually launched Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M) tool for integration of climate information in Geographic Information System (GIS) based watershed planning under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Scheme (MGNREGS).
- Giriraj Singh launched this service along with Lord Tariq Ahmad, Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth in the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.
- This tool will be implemented in seven districts of states such as Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Rajasthan.
- The Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Government of UK and Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India are jointly working towards climate resilience.

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA & Mahatma Gandhi NREGS

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) is the foundation for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) and provides guaranteed employment.
- Central Government has powers to make rules and to amend Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. State Governments have powers to make rules and amend the concerned State scheme.

PM launched Rs 100 Lakh cr Gati Shakti- National Master Plan for Infrastructure Development from New Delhi

- The Central government is undertaking efforts for the Next Generation Infrastructure to improve ease of living as well as ease of doing business.

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- On these lines, the Prime Minister (PM) of India, **Narendra Damodardas Modi** had announced 'PM GatiShakti – National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity' in his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2021.
- Following this, on October 13 2021, **GatiShakti**, a Rs. 100 lakh-crore project was officially launched by the Indian PM during an event at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- **Gati Shakti** is a digital platform collaborating 16 Central Ministries and Departments for integrated planning and coordination to implement infrastructure connectivity projects of more than 1,200 industrial clusters.
- In line with PM Gati Shakti, Mumbai Port Trust is undertaking a number of projects promoting multimodal connectivity which is premised upon two pillars, namely cargo-related projects and Sea Tourism.

National Conference for Zoo Directors & Veterinarians 2021 held in Gujarat; Prani Mitra Awards 2021 conferred

- A two-day National conference for zoo directors and veterinarians 2021 was hosted by Sardar Patel Zoological Park, Kevadia, Gujarat.
- Organized by Central Zoo Authority (CZA), it was attended by Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- At the valedictory, **Mrs Sudha Murthy**, Chairperson Infosys Foundation was felicitated.
- An outreach movie titled 'Live in harmony with nature, stop illegal trade in wildlife' produced by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) was also released during the conference.

Department of Biotechnology has launched country's first 'One Health' consortium

- The Department of Biotechnology has launched the country's first 'One Health' consortium.
- This programme envisages carrying out surveillance of important bacterial, viral and parasitic infections of zoonotic and transboundary pathogens in India.
- Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, **Dr. Renu Swarup**, this Consortium consisting of 27 organisations is one of the biggest one health programs launched by Govt of India in post-COVID times.
- The Ministry of Science and Technology, this Use of existing diagnostic tests and the development of additional methodologies when required are mandated for the surveillance and for understanding the spread of emerging diseases.

Implementation of best global standards for MSMEs: Ashwini Kumar Choubey

- Minister of State for Consumer Affairs **Ashwini Kumar Choubey** has implemented the best global standards which will facilitate access to national and international markets for **Small and Medium Enterprises**.
- At the **function of the World Standards Day**, Mr Choubey, the critical role that standards play in ensuring the integration of diverse technologies and interoperability of innovations required for propelling smart cities of the future.
- Also pressed on the significance of environmental sustainability through standardization.
- The Minister elaborated in view of the pandemic, the path to move towards Sustainable Development Goals, has become an absolute necessity, for which relevant, faster and better standards are essential.

India hosts first ever SCO Seminar on Role of Women in Armed Forces

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- **India hosted the first ever SCO Seminar on Role of Women in Armed Forces.** Secretary (West) Reenat Sandhu, the role of India's women military officers at the global level in UN peacekeeping missions.
- In the past decades have opened up new vistas for women in the Armed Forces of India **and India has been an active participant in the deliberations on issues focusing on women empowerment and gender mainstreaming at various UN bodies.**
- The Indian Army has contributed women officers as Military Observers and Staff Officers apart from them forming part of Medical Units being deployed in UN Missions.
- In 1960, women of the **Indian Armed Forces Medical Services headed the UN Peacekeeping mission in the Republic of Congo** to assist with the setting up of a 400-bed hospital. In 2007, India created history by deploying the first ever all-female Formed Police Unit for UN Peacekeeping in Liberia.
- In 2019, India deployed a Female Engagement Team as part of the **UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.** This female engagement team deployed in Congo has played a critical role in peacekeeping and inspiring women in local communities.

Govt launches India's 1st 'One Health' Consortium for Surveillance of Bacterial, Viral Infections

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) **launched India's 1st 'One Health' consortium to carry out surveillance of important bacterial, viral and parasitic infections of zoonotic as well as transboundary pathogens.**
- It will consist of 27 organizations led by DBT-National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad (Telangana).
- It was launched by Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology through video conferencing.
- It will also look into the use of existing diagnostic tests and the development of additional methodologies to understand the spread of emerging diseases.

India signs MoU with Russia for Di-ammonium Phosphate Fertilizer Supply

- **India signed a long-term Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Russia for DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate) fertilizer supply.**
- The reason behind this agreement is to stabilize the prices of DAP and to reduce dependence on countries like Jordan, Morocco, and China.
- **Only 25 CPSEs tagged as 'excellent' in the Performance Assessment by DPE**
- In accordance with the performance review conducted by the department of public enterprises (DPE) for 2019-2020, **only 25 of the 144 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have been tagged as 'excellent'.**
- This figure is down by 10 from 35 as compared to 2018-2019 mainly due to depreciation of the rupee, stricter assessment and drop in net profits.
- Among other categories, 28 units are categorized as poor, 18 as very good, 66 as good; and 30 as fair.

EAM S Jaishankar to embark on a five-day visit to Israel

- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on a five day official visit to Israel** at the invitation of Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel Yair Lapid.

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- This is his first visit to the country as External Affairs Minister. He has held a bilateral meeting with the Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel.
- **India and Israel elevated bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership during the historic visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israel in July 2017.** Since then, the relationship between the two countries has focused on **expanding knowledge-based partnership, which includes collaboration in innovation and research, including boosting the Make in India initiative.**
- The External Affairs Minister has interacted with **Indian-origin Jewish community in Israel, Indologists, Indian students** who are currently pursuing their education in Israeli universities and business people including from the hi-tech industries.

Nirmala Sitharaman and David Malpass has emphasized need to scale up climate financing for impactful projects

- **World Bank President David Malpass met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** in Washington and discussed India's **efforts on climate change action.**
- The World Bank has emphasised the need for scaling up climate finance for impactful projects in line with **Nationally Determined Contributions and development goals.**
- Malpass also reaffirmed the **international financial institution's strong commitment to India across all World Bank Group entities,** including the International Finance Corporation and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.
- The World Bank President Malpass congratulated Minister Sitharaman on India's COVID-19 vaccination campaign and thanked India for its international role in vaccine production and distribution.

2nd edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2021 to be held in New Delhi

- The **second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2021** will be held in **New Delhi from Oct 18th to 22.**
- The conference serves as a platform for Naval Commanders to discuss important maritime matters at **the military-strategic level as well as interact with Senior Government Officials through an institutionalised forum.**
- Due to the rapidly changing geostrategic situation of the region, **the significance and importance of the Conference is manifold.**
- It is an institutionalised platform to **deliberate, direct, devise and decide issues** of utmost importance, which will shape future course of Indian Navy.
- The Navy has focused on being **Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive force and despite the COVID- 19 pandemic, continues to assiduously execute its mandate.** The Indian Navy has witnessed a significant growth in its operational tasking over the years in consonance with India's rising maritime interests.
- **Indian Naval ships on Mission Based Deployments across the Indian Ocean Region** have remained poised for quick response to any developing situation. Indian Navy ships deployed in the Gulf of Aden and the Persian Gulf continue to provide security for trade flowing through these areas.

India to hosts 'Gen Next' leaders from 75 democratic countries +

- **Chairman of Indian Council for Cultural Relations ICCR Vinay Sahasrabudhe, as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav,** India will host young leaders from 75 democracies under the initiative Gen-Next Democratic Network.

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- Briefing media in New Delhi, Sahasrabudhe, young leaders below the age of 35 from the ruling party, opposition party and **other key parties** are being invited and the first batch will include leaders from Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Japan, Indonesia, Chile and Zambia.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will inaugurate the event on 25th November Sahasrabudhe, the objective behind the event is to give the young leaders a comprehensive idea about India's rich democratic culture.

India, UK hold inaugural maritime dialogue, discuss cooperation in Indo-Pacific

- **India and UK** held their inaugural maritime dialogue in a virtual format as agreed in the **India-UK Roadmap 2030 for future relations**.
- The India-UK Roadmap 2030 was adopted at the **Virtual Summit between the two Prime Ministers in May this year**.
- The consultations were led by the two Foreign Ministries. They involved exchanges on cooperation in the maritime domain, Indo-Pacific and regional and multilateral cooperation.

India's Steel Ministry Signed MoU with Russia's Minister of Energy for Collaboration in Coking Coal Sector

- **Ministry of Steel, Government of India (GoI)** and the **Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for collaboration in the mining and steel sectors, with special focus on coking coal, in Moscow during the **Russian Energy Week (REW) 13-15 October 2021**.
- The MoU was signed by Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, Union Minister of Steel, India and Nikolay Shulginov, Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation.
- Objective is "Collaboration in coking coal used in steel making and Research and Development (R&D) in steel sector".

PM Narendra Modi Launched 7 DPSUs Carved out of OFB

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **7 new Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)** that were carved out of the **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)** and dedicated them to the nation.
- Note: **The MoD has set a target of achieving a turnover of Rs 1.75 lakh crore in aerospace, defence goods and services by 2024, including exports of Rs 35,000 crore.**

Addl. Info:

- In September 2021, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) had dissolved the OFB and transferred the OFB's employees, management, and assets to the 7 DPSUs.
- The 7 DPSUs include – **Munitions India Ltd (MIL), Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd (AVANI), Gliders India Limited (GIL), Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd (AWE India), Troop Comforts Ltd (TCL), Yantra India Ltd (YIL), and India Optel Ltd (IOL).**
- E. R. Sheikh Assumed Charge as 1st Director-General of the Ordnance Directorate
- The 1984 batch Indian Ordnance Factory Service (IOFS) officer, E.R. Sheikh assumed charge as 1st Director-General of the Ordnance Directorate (Co-ordination and Services), which is the successor organization of OFB.

RailTel & C-DOT Signed MoU to Boost Expansion of Telecom Services in India

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- **RailTel Corporation of India Ltd (RailTel)**, under the Ministry of Railways, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, a research centre under the Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communications, **to cooperate in diverse areas of telecom with a focus on boosting modernisation and expansion of community networks in India.**
- The MoU signed at the C-DOT; Delhi campus is a part of the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav”.

India to participate in Moscow Format meet on Afghanistan

- **India will participate in the Moscow** Format meeting on Afghanistan.
- The meeting is being **hosted by Russia.**
- This is the **first Moscow format dialogue since the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan in August.** India received an invitation for the Moscow Format meeting on Afghanistan and will be participating in it.
- **Russian Foreign Minister, representatives of ten nations will take part in the Moscow format meeting.** Discussion will focus on situation in Afghanistan, and formation of an inclusive government.
- Taliban delegation will be headed by Abdul Salam Hanafi, deputy Prime Minister of the interim Afghan government.
- **The Moscow format was introduced in 2017 on the basis of the six-party mechanism** for consultations between special representatives from Russia, Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, Iran, and India.

Rajnath Singh has launched the Web Based Project Monitoring Portal for Military Engineer Services

- Raksha Mantri **Rajnath Singh** launched **Web Based Project Monitoring Portal (WBPMP) for Military Engineer Services (MES)** at New Delhi.
- The portal conceptualized in accordance with **the Digital India Mission of the Union Government, has been developed by Bhaskar acharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-G).**
- The newly launched unified portal is the **first project management e-Governance** to be implemented by the MES.
- It will enable real time monitoring of projects from its inception to completion.
- All stakeholders not only from MES but also **Armed Forces users can gain access to the project information.**
- This is one among many initiatives of MES for the scientific management of this organisation.

Home Minister flagged off Modi Van under 'Seva Hi Sangathan' programme

- Home Minister **Amit Shah** **flagged off Modi Van** under the '**Seva Hi Sangathan**' programme to commemorate Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 20 years as the Head of Government.
- **Five Mobile Medical Vans** will operate in five Assembly Constituencies in **Kaushambi district of Uttar Pradesh.**
- They will work under the aegis of Kaushambi Vikas Parishad run by BJP's National Secretary Vinod Sonkar.
- These vans will persuade villagers to administer pledge for the conservation of water and for the cleanliness of the river as well as ponds in their villages
- **These vans will also broadcast Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme 'Man Ki Baat**

Interest Rates on 'Small Savings Schemes' Unchanged for Q3-FY22

- The Central Government has **kept the interest rates on 'Small Savings Schemes' (SSS) unchanged for the third quarter of Financial Year 2022, ie; from 1st October 2021 to 31st December 2021.**

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- The interest rates on SSS were altered by the Central government on a Quarterly basis & some of the rates allocated for current quarter are:
- Public Provident Fund (PPF) – 7.1%
- National Savings Certificate (NSC) – 6.8%
- **Senior Citizens Savings Scheme – 7.4%** (5-year scheme, where interest is paid quarterly)
- **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana account – 7.6%**

Addl.Info:

- West Bengal is India's largest contributor in SSS, followed by Uttar Pradesh.

Devusinh Chauhan participates in Ministerial Roundtable Session of ITU Digital World 2021

- The Minister of State (MoS) for Communication, **Devusinh Chauhan**, participated in the **Ministerial Roundtable Session of the 50th-anniversary edition of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Digital World 2021**, which was **held in Vietnam** and hosted by the government of Vietnam.
- The Prime Ministers of Vietnam and Ministers of Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Lao P.D.R, Myanmar and Vietnam have participated.
- Discussion Topic: '**Cutting the cost: can affordable access accelerate digital transformation?**'

Addl.Info:

- In September 2020 Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the '**Har Gaon Optical Fibre Cable**' project to provide internet services to six lakh villages through optical fibre cable in 1,000 days.

Amit Shah launched Development Projects in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; Mount Harriet to be named Mount Manipur

- Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Cooperation **inaugurated 14 projects worth Rs 299 crore and laid foundation stones of 12 projects worth Rs 643 crore from the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**
- With this, **a development work of about Rs 1,000 crore is initiated** in Andaman Islands.
- The Central Government has renamed **Mount Harriet, an island peak in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Mount Manipur as a tribute to the freedom fighters of Manipur.**
- Mount Harriet is the third-highest island peak in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Prime Minister has inaugurated Vishram Sadan at National Cancer Institute in Jhajjar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has **inaugurated the 806-bedded Vishram Sadan at the National Cancer Institute in Haryana's Jhajjar Campus of AIIMS, New Delhi.**
- He addressed the event through video conferencing and likewise inaugurated the Vishram Sadan.
- The development of the **Vishram Sadan will ease the problems of the cancer patients** as well as their family members who have to repeatedly come to hospitals and further face accommodation issues
- The Centre's **Jan Aushadhi Kendras** which aims to provide **medicines to the poor section of the country at very low prices**

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- **As part of the Infosys Corporate Social Responsibility**, the 806-bedded Vishram Sadan at Haryana's Jhajjar campus of **AIIMS New Delhi** will provide an air-conditioned accommodation facility to the people who accompany the cancer patients at the hospital.
- It has been constructed at a cost of Rs 93 crore by the foundation and is in close proximity to the hospital as well as the OPD blocks of the National Cancer Institute.

52nd International Film Festival of India to be held in Goa

- The **52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** will be held in **Goa** November 20, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry has announced.
- The Directorate of Film Festivals will organise **the mega event in a hybrid format**- virtual and physical—in collaboration with the Goa government and the Indian Film Industry
- On the occasion of the birth centenary of the maestro of Indian cinema Satyajit Ray, the ministry has announced the Directorate of Films Festivals will pay tribute to him through a **“Special Retrospective” at the IFFI this time.**
- The 52nd edition of the IFFI will be held in a hybrid format considering the success of the 51st edition in January 2021.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav participated in virtual LMDC Ministerial meeting

- Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment Forest and Climate Change, virtually participated in the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) Ministerial meeting titled **“Preparations for COP 26 on Climate Change – Expectations and Challenges”**.
- The virtual LMDC Meeting was hosted by the **Plurinational State of Bolivia on 18 October 2021.**

Addl. Info:

- LMDC comprises around 25 developing countries from Asia and other regions.

Purpose of the meeting:

- The meeting was convened to gather perspectives on the way forward for the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)’s 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26)**, which is to be held in **Glasgow, UK** from October 31 to November 12, 2021.

Address by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav:

- He called for the **rapid reduction of emissions by the developed countries** in this decade.
- He also highlighted that between 2005 and 2016, **India has achieved a reduction of 24% in emission** intensity of its GDP, and **achieved its pre-2020 voluntary target.**
- He noted that the commitments of carbon neutrality and to raise ambitions in nationally determined contributions to be in line with climate justice and principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC).
- He highlighted the climate actions of India in areas such as **renewable energy, energy access, and efficiency, sustainable transport including e-mobility, sustainable agriculture, and enhancing green cover.**

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- Highlighting the importance of global partnerships and cooperation, he requested the LMDC countries to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) launched by India.

Working Group Constituted to overhaul PMFBY; Headed by Ritesh Chauhan

- The Central Government has constituted a Working Group (WG) to be headed by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PMFBY, currently Ritesh Chauhan to roll out an overhauled Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2022.
- The group will submit its report in six months.
- The key reason for the WG formation is the quitting of the scheme by many states due to the share of premium.

NITI Aayog Launches Geospatial Energy Map of India

- NITI Aayog along with ISRO has launched the Geospatial Energy Map of India which will provide a holistic picture of all energy resources of the country.
- This map identifies and locates all primary and secondary sources of energy and their transportation.
- Geospatial Energy Map of India was launched by Rajiv Kumar (Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog), Dr. V K Saraswat (Member, NITI Aayog), and Shri Amitabh Kant (CEO, NITI Aayog).
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Energy Map of India will help in providing a holistic picture of all energy resources of the country with a visualization of energy installations including power plants, oil and gas wells, petroleum refineries, coal fields and coal blocks, district-wise data on renewable energy power plants, and so on.
- This brings together the power of a geographic information system in 27 thematic layers to bring together all of them in a relatable fashion.

UK Foreign Secy Elizabeth Truss to arrive in New Delhi today on three-day visit to India

- UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs Elizabeth Truss will arrive in New Delhi on a three-day visit to India.
- During her stay in New Delhi, Ms Truss will hold talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.
- During the India-UK Virtual Summit between the two Prime Ministers on 4th May this year, the bilateral relationship between the two nations was elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Addl.Info:

- External Affairs Ministry said, Ms Truss' visit will be an opportunity to review the roadmap 2030 launched during the Virtual Summit and further deepen the partnership across various sectors like trade, science and technology, innovation, defence, climate, education and health sectors.

Indian Navy conducts Offshore Sailing Regatta from Kochi to Goa

- As part of commemorative activities of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Indian Navy is conducting an Offshore Sailing Regatta from Kochi to Goa under aegis of Indian Naval Sailing Association, INSA.
- Six Indian Naval Sailing Vessels Mhadei, Tarini, Bulbul, Neelkanth, Kadalpura and Hariyal will participate in the event.

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- The race is scheduled to start on 24th October for a tentative duration of **five days** and would cover an approximate distance of **360 nautical miles** between the start point at **Naval Base, Kochi to Goa**.
- The expedition is aimed at fostering the spirit of adventure and ocean sailing for the participating crew.
- It also enhances Indian Navy's ability to project its benign presence across the globe by participating in sailing expeditions like **Sagar Parikrama and Cape Town to Rio de Janeiro races and IONS sailing expedition**.
- The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Offshore Race will be flagged off from Kochi by Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (South). **The Flagging in ceremony of the race will be presided over by Commandant, Naval War College at Goa.**

Rajnath Singh has inaugurated Swarnim Vijay Varsh Conclave in Bengaluru

- **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated a three-day conclave organised by the Indian Air Force to commemorate 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh'.
- The event took place at the **Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru** to mark the **Golden Jubilee year of 1971 Indo Pak war**.
- The Raksha Mantri termed it as a just war fought to liberate people in the then **East Pakistan** from the oppressive and autocratic rule that violated the basic human rights of people in the **present day of Bangladesh**.
- The integration of capabilities, procurements and the formation of a national defence strategy. The **Chief of the Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat** has emphasised on synergising operations between Army, Air Force and Navy
- India has taken up modernisation of its defence forces in the last five years and improving infrastructure in the border areas.

Defence Ministry has signed an MOU worth Rs 423 Cr with US for procurement of Arms for Indian Navy

- **The Defence Ministry** has signed a contract with **the US Government under Foreign Military Sale (FMS)** for procurement of **MK 54 Torpedo** and Expendable Chaff and Flares for the Indian Navy.
- These weapons are the outfit of **P-8I Aircraft** which is used for **Long range Maritime Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare and Anti-Surface Warfare**. The ministry will spend **423 crore rupees** for the Torpedos.
- The Indian Navy has a total of **11 P-8I aircraft**, which are manufactured by US aerospace company **Boeing**, in its fleet.
- In addition to anti-submarine warfare capabilities, **the P-8I aircraft is known for its advance maritime reconnaissance capabilities**.

DA for central govt employees hiked 3%

- The union government has approved a **3% hike in dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) for central government employees**.
- The new rate of dearness allowance will now be **31% from 28% earlier**. The increase in allowance amount will **benefit 1.13 crore central government employees including 47.14 lakh central government employees and 68.62 lakh pensioners**.
- Union Minister Anurag Thakur has announced the development will **cost ₹9,488 crore to the government**. The new rate will be **applicable from July 2021**.

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- **Dearness Allowance** means an allowance paid by the government to its employees as well as pensioners to curb the impact of inflation.
- Prior to this, the Centre had approved an increase in DA and DR given to central government employees and pensioners from **17% to 28%**.

Textile Ministry issues notification for setting up seven PM MITRA Parks

- The Textiles Ministry has issued notification for **setting up of seven PM MITRA Parks**.
- The scheme is aimed at realising the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of **building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and to position India strongly on the Global textiles map.
- PM MITRA is inspired by the 5F vision of Prime Minister. The '5F' Formula encompasses - **Farm to fibre; fibre to factory; factory to fashion; fashion to foreign**.
- The seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks will be setup at Greenfield or Brownfield sites located in different willing States.
- For a Greenfield PM MITRA Park, the Union Development Capital Support will be thirty per cent of the Project Cost, **with a cap of 500 Cr rupees and for Brownfield sites 30 per cent of project cost of balance infrastructure and restricted to a limit of 200 crore rupees**.

Cost of energy should not be allowed to outstrip paying capacity of consuming nations: Govt

- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri has said that **the cost of energy should not be allowed to outstrip the paying capacity of consuming nations**
- This imperative needs to be configured by the consuming countries in planning their production profiles for future
- The World Bank had stated that the **surge in energy prices poses significant near-term risks to global inflation** and, if sustained, **could also weigh on growth in energy-importing countries**.

Addl.Info:

- Currently in India, **only 6 out of the 26 sedimentary basins** have **been explored** and the government is looking for international partners to participate in the exploration journey of India.
- Minister said that the government is working to promoting low carbon pathways through biofuels and **increase Ethanol blending to 20 per cent by 2025**.

PM Modi interacts with beneficiaries & stakeholders of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Swayampurna Goa' programme

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** interaction with the beneficiaries and stakeholders of the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Swayampurna Goa' programme is underway via video conferencing.
- The initiative of '**Swayampurna Goa**', **launched on October 1, 2020** was inspired by the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- Under this programme, a state government officer is appointed as '**Swayampurna Mitra**' who ensures **that various government schemes and benefits are available** to the eligible beneficiaries through coordination between multiple departments.

Govt notifies rules for the sustainability of electricity sector & promotion of clean energy

- The **Ministry of Power** has notified rules for the **sustainability of electricity sector and the promotion of clean energy**.

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- These rules are Electricity (Timely recovery of costs due to Change in Law) Rules, 2021 and Electricity (Promotion of generation from renewable sources of energy by addressing Must Run and other matters) Rules, 2021.
- Ministry of Power has said that these Rules would help in creating an investment friendly environment in the country.
- It said that these Rules will help in achieving India's international commitments of renewable energy generation.
- It added that this will ensure that consumers get green and clean power and secure a healthy environment for future generations.

World Leaders' Summit of COP-26

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit Rome and Glasgow from 29TH OCT to 2nd November to **attend the 16th G-20 Summit and the World Leaders' Summit of COP-26.**
- Modi will participate in the 16th G-20 Summit in Rome from 30th and 31st October at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Italy Mario Draghi.
- The Summit will also be attended by Heads of State and Heads of Government of G-20 Member Countries, the European Union and other invited countries and International Organizations.
- This will be the **8th G-20 Summit that Prime Minister would be attending.** The G-20 has emerged as the premier global forum for international economic cooperation. India is scheduled to host the **G-20 Summit in 2023 for the first time.**
- The forthcoming Summit under the Italian Presidency is centred around the **theme 'People, Planet, Prosperity', focussing on the areas of Recovery from the Pandemic and Strengthening of Global Health Governance, Economic Recovery and Resilience, Climate Change and Energy Transition and Sustainable Development and Food Security.**
- The Prime Minister will hold numerous bilateral meetings on the sidelines of COP-26 including with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

67th National Film Awards Ceremony Underway at Vigyan Bhawan

- The **67th National Film Awards** ceremony, given by the Directorate of Film Festivals which comes under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, was originally slated to be held on 3 May 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **A total of 461 feature films, 220 non-feature films, 25 books on cinema, 12 film critics, and 13 film-friendly states competed** for the awards. The awards were announced in March 2021 for the films released in 2019.
- Late **Sushant Singh Rajput's Chhichhore** bagged the **Best Movie Award** and Manoj Bajpayee along with **Dhanush won Best Actor Awards** for their films Bhonsle and Asuran, respectively. Whereas Kangana Ranaut's won Best Actress for Panga and Manikarnika.

Winners' List: Feature Film Awards

- Best Feature Film: Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam)
- Best Actor (shared): Manoj Bajpayee for Bhonsle (Hindi), and Dhanush for Asuran (Tamil)
- Best Actress: Kangana Ranaut for Panga (Hindi) and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi (Hindi) Best Supporting Actress: Pallavi Joshi for The Tashkent Files (Hindi)

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- Best Supporting Actor: Vijay Sethupathi for Super Deluxe (Tamil)
- Best Director: Sanjay Puri for Bahadur Bhai

4th General Assembly of ISA held virtually; Inaugurated by Raj Kumar Singh

- The 4th General Assembly of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** held virtually which was inaugurated and presided over by Union Minister Raj Kumar Singh, Ministry of Power and the President of the ISA Assembly.
- ISA approved the '**One Sun**' political declaration for the launch of Green Grids Initiative-**One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG)** at COP26 (Conference of the Parties) to be held in Glasgow, Scotland from October 31- November 12, 2021.
- During the assembly, two new programs of ISA were launched viz.
- Management of **Solar PV panels & battery usage waste**; and Solar Hydrogen programme.

Indian Railways Ordered to Dissolve Indian Railway Station Development Corporation

- The Railway Board issued the letter stating that the Indian Railways has ordered to dissolve the **Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC)**, an organisation under the Ministry of Railways.
- This is the **2nd organisation under the Ministry of Railways to be dissolved in 2021.**

Addl.Info:

- The IRSDC has been dissolved in line with the recommendation of **Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Advisor of the Finance Ministry for the rationalisation of railway bodies by closing down or merging multiple organisations.**

Note:

- The Indian Railways Organisation for Alternative Fuel (IROAF) under the ministry of railways was dissolved on 7th September 2021.

MoS Devusinh Chauhan chaired 7th Meeting of BRICS Communications Ministers 2021

- Minister of State (MoS) **Devusinh Chauhan** chaired the **7th meeting of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Communications Ministers 2021** through video conferencing.
- 2021 Chair– India
- Theme for India's Chairship– '**BRICS @ 15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus**

Vigilance Awareness Week being observed

- **The Vigilance Awareness Week-2021** will be observed this year **from 26th October, 2021 to 1st November, 2021.**
- **Central Vigilance Commissioner Suresh Patel** has administered Integrity Pledge to Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) officials and employees.
- The pledge reads that corruption has been one of major obstacles to economic, political and social progress of the country.
- Patel has administered pledge that all stakeholders such as **government, citizens and private sector need to work together to eradicate corruption.**
- The CVC is observing Vigilance Awareness Week **with the theme 'Independent India @75: Self-Reliance with Integrity'.**

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PM Modi has launched Rs 64 thousand crore mega health infrastructure mission

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the **PM Ayushman Bharat Infrastructure Mission** from Varanasi with a total outlay of 64,180 crore rupees
- PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission aims to **strengthen the critical healthcare network from village to block to the district to the regional and national level in the next four-five years.**
- **PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission** an entire ecosystem for services from treatment to critical research will be created in every corner of the country.
- under this **Mission the government will develop the network of treatment and critical care** units in every nook and corner of the country with an aggressive approach.
- under this mission Health and Wellness Centers will be opened in villages and cities and facilities like free medical consultation, free tests, free medicine will be provided in these centres.

Ministry of Textiles has approved Pilot Project on skilling of Design and Commissioning technical personnel

- **Ministry of Textiles has approved the Pilot Project** on skilling of Design and Commissioning technical personnel associated with **the application of geotextiles in infrastructure projects.**
- The project will be conducted concurrently **by the Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee.**
- The coordinating faculty of the concerned fields of Engineering will look after the implementation of the special courses in consultation with the other concerned centres.
- Ministry of Textiles will coordinate for all matters related to conducting these Courses. **A batch will consist of a minimum of 75 to a maximum of 100 candidates** and during the pilot phase, two batches are scheduled for each of these three Institutes.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched phase-II of MGNF

- **Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan** has launched **phase II of the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship** to create opportunities for young and dynamic individuals to contribute to enhancing skill development at the grassroots.
- The two-year fellowship seeks to combine classroom sessions by academic **partner Indian Institute of Management to create credible plans and identify barriers in raising employment, economic output and promoting livelihoods in rural areas.**
- Pradhan called upon fellows to act as catalysts of social change at the grassroots by driving skill development efforts.
- He also called upon district collectors **and academic partner IIMs to facilitate the fellows** and script a success story of change through this fellowship also tremendous transformations are taking place across sectors which will create demand for new skills and more skilled professionals.

NITI Aayog launches Digi-book titled “Innovations for You” Digi-Book

- NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched a new digi-book- “Innovations for You”
- The book’s first edition is **focused on innovations in Health Care.**

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- It is a compilation of **45 health tech startups**, which have been incubated at Atal Incubation Centres spread across the country.
- The digi-book was unveiled in the presence of Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Dr V K Paul, Member Health, NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, Dr Rakesh Sarwal, Additional Secretary(Health), NITI Aayog and Dr Chintan Vaishnav, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.

Aim of the Book :

- To "serve as an encouragement to upcoming entrepreneurs to work on the path of creativity and imagination to address some of India's pressing challenges."

Objective :

- To create an umbrella structure to oversee and revolutionise the innovation ecosystem of the country.

India, UK, Australia to launch IRIS at COP26

- **India**, along with **Australia**, the **UK** and **small island developing states (SIDS)** have planned to launch a new initiative "Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)", on the sidelines of the Conference of Parties (COP26).

Aim :

- To create an infrastructure that can withstand disasters and lessen economic losses in island nations .
- Australia, India and the UK have committed an initial funding of \$10 million for IRIS.

Note :

- The 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) under the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC) is going to be held (from Oct 31 – Nov 12) in Glasgow, United Kingdom (UK).

Government sets up National Steering Committee for implementation of the NIPUN Bharat Mission

- A **National Steering Committee** has been formed by the government for the **implementation of the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy, NIPUN Bharat Mission**.
- Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** will be **heading** the committee while the Minister of State for Education **Annapurna Devi** will be the **Vice-Chair**.
- The **Department of School Education and Literacy** had launched the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy, NIPUN Bharat Mission on July 5 2021.

Aim of the mission :

- To achieve the goal of universal proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by grade 3, as envisaged by National Education Policy 2020.

The other members of the NSC include:

- Secretary, School Education & Literacy
- Director NCERT
- Vice Chancellor NIEPA
- Chairperson NCTE
- Secretary Education Uttar Pradesh

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- Secretary Education, Karnataka
- Director SCERT Gujarat
- Director SCERT Sikkim
- Representatives of 7 Union Ministries (Women and Child Development, Tribal Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment, Health and Family Welfare, Finance, Electronics and Information Technology and Panchayati Raj)
- Two Experts from NCERT and RIE Ajmer
- Three External Experts.
- Convenor : Joint Secretary and Mission Director NIPUN Bharat Mission

Roles and Responsibilities of the NSC for the NIUPN Bharat Mission:

- To oversee the progress of the National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and provide guidance on policy issues.
- It will oversee the progress of the National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and provide guidance on policy issues and achieve the desired target in 2026-27.
- To disseminate tools for measurement of yearly progress in the form of guidelines.
- To prepare and approve a National Action Plan (based on the State's Action Plans) with KRAs for every State/UT vis-à-vis factors attributable for the gaps (i.e., lack of Fund, Vacancies, Teachers, Demography, Local issues, Need of Training for teachers, Curriculum & pedagogy related).
- To review programmatic and financial norms periodically to ensure they are synchronised with targets to be achieved.
- To develop methodology of assessment to analyse the progress and provide feedback to States/UTs.

19th meeting of SCO Prosecutors General to be hosted by Solicitor General of India

- **The Nineteenth Meeting of Prosecutors General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO Member States will be hosted by Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta.**
- In the Nineteenth Meeting of Prosecutors General of the SCO, **Member States will further deliberate on strengthening cooperation in preventing and combating the growing threat of trafficking in persons especially women and children**, exchange of information and best practices in the field of laws, cooperation amongst the educational training institutions and anti-trafficking bodies of the SCO Member States.
- A Protocol incorporating the deliberations and decisions of the Nineteenth Meeting of Prosecutors General will be signed and adopted by the SCO Member States.
- The Prosecutors and Attorney General and senior officials and experts from the Ministries of Law and Justice of **India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan** will participate in the meeting.
- The SCO Secretariat will **be providing necessary assistance** during the three-day deliberations.

India, Kyrgyzstan holds first strategic dialogue in New Delhi

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- The **first India-Kyrgyzstan Strategic Dialogue** between the **National Security Council Secretariats** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The Indian side was led by **National Security Adviser Ajit Doval** and the Kyrgyz side was led by Secretary of Security Council Lieutenant **General Marat Imankulov**.
- The two sides held discussions on threats and challenges facing both countries as well as the **regional security environment with special reference to Afghanistan**.
- The two sides welcomed similarity of views on these matters and agreed upon steps to enhance bilateral security cooperation between the relevant bodies, including **in the fields of counter-terrorism, combating radicalisation, narcotics control and defence cooperation**

AYUSH Minister has inaugurated Incubation Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- **AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** will inaugurate the Incubation Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AIIA- iCAINE) at **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi**.
- The event will witness representatives from Ayurveda Sector across the country. Besides, a National Seminar on Start-ups in **Ayush Sector- Scope and Opportunities (AYUR-UDYAMAH)** is also being organized as a part of the programme.
- In order to promote entrepreneurship leveraging the academic knowledge, All India Institute of Ayurveda has set up an Incubation and Innovation Centre in its campus to nucleate a cluster of new age ventures.
- The incubation centre will be set up under the mandate of Ministry of AYUSH given to AIIA to nucleate a cluster of new age ventures and to promote entrepreneurship leveraging the academic knowledge.
- During the event, **an immunity boosting 'Bal Raksha Kit'** for children up to the age of **16 years** will also be launched. It is proposed to distribute 10 thousand free Bal Raksha Kits to children on the occasion of Ayurveda Day. Recently, **All India Institute of Ayurveda has also established a well-equipped Blood Bank** which will be inaugurated.

PM Modi to attend 16th East Asia Summit virtually

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi **has attended the 16th East Asia Summit** which was held virtually.
- The East Asia Summit is the premier leaders-led forum in the Indo-Pacific. Since its inception in 2005, it has played a significant role in the strategic and geopolitical evolution of East Asia.
- At the **16th East Asia Summit**, leaders will discuss matters of regional and international interest and concern including maritime security, terrorism and COVID-19 cooperation. Leaders are also expected to accept declarations on Mental Health, Economic recovery through Tourism and Green Recovery which are being co-sponsored by India.
- Apart from the **10 ASEAN Member states**, East Asia Summit includes **India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, United States and Russia**. India, being a founding member, is committed to strengthening the East Asia Summit and making it more effective for dealing with contemporary challenges.
- ASEAN-India Summits are held annually and provide opportunity for India and ASEAN to engage at the highest level. Prime Minister attended the **17th ASEAN-India Summit held virtually in November 2020**

Union Minister for Culture and Tourism G.Kishan Reddy has launched Amrit Mahotsav Podcast

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- As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism G.Kishan Reddy has launched the **Amrit Mahotsav Podcast**.
- This podcast series is a tribute to the persons and movements that significantly contributed to India's freedom struggle and some of which did not find a place in the conventional storyline.
- **The first series, Zara Yaad Karo Qurbani**, went live with an episode based on the Indian National Army. New episodes will be added on a weekly basis.
- Ministry of Culture, as an ode to the sacrifices made, it is only befitting to salute these heroes by recollecting **their stories of courage and valour as part of commemorating 75 years of India's Independence**.

G-20 Leadership Summit-2021 has begun in Italy

- **The two-day G-20 Leader Summit-2021 has begun in Italy.**
- The G-20 is the international forum that brings together the world's major economies, extending participation to guest countries and international organizations. Its leadership rotates on an annual basis among its members.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited Rome in Italy to attend the G-20 summit.** The 2021 G-20 Summit, under the Italian Presidency, will focus on three broad, interconnected pillars of action: **People, Planet and Prosperity**.
- Within these pillars, the G-20 aims to take the lead in ensuring a swift international response to the COVID-19 pandemic - able to provide equitable, worldwide access to diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines - while building up resilience to future health-related shocks
- The G-20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union.
- The 19 countries are **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK, and the US.**

SC reserves judgment on issue of grant of reservation in promotion to STs/SCs in govt jobs

- The Supreme Court reserved its judgment on the issue of the grant of reservation in promotion to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in government jobs.
- A **three-judge bench headed by Justice Nageswara Rao** heard all the parties in the matter including Attorney General K K Venugopal, Additional Solicitor General, Balbir Singh and other senior lawyers appearing for various states.
- The bench also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai that it is a fact of life that even after around **75 years those belonging to SCs and STs** have not been brought to the same level of merit as the forward classes.
- The bench had earlier, **would not reopen its decision on the issue of the grant of reservation in promotion to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)** and it was for the states to decide how they are going to implement the same.

Government Notifies Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2021

- The Department of Telecom, Ministry of Communication has notified **Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2021** by amending Indian Telegraph Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2016.
- This amendment was **made to ease the rollout of communications networks** by fixing nominal one-time fee at Rs 1,000 per kilometer and uniform procedure for establishment of Overground Telegraph Line.

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- This will also make the documentation for **RoW application** for **overground telegraph lines** simple and augmentation of Digital Communications Infrastructure across the country.

Addl.Info:

- Earlier also the fee was **Rs 1,000 only per km**, but some **State local municipalities** charge more like Kerala, Gujarat levy annual rent in addition to one-time charges.
- In order to overcome this, the amendment has been made.
- Also, earlier the RoW Rules had covered only underground optical fibre cable (OFC) and mobile towers.

Govt received final dividend of Rs 6,665 crores from BPCL for Financial Year 2020-21

- **The Union Government** has received a final dividend of six thousand 665 crore rupees from **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)** for the Financial Year 2020-21.
- The Centre has received a **final dividend of Rs 6,665 crore for FY21** from fuel retailer-cum-refiner BPCL, which is on the block for privatisation.
- Secretary of **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** Tuhin Kanta Pandey, this includes a special dividend on account of gains especially on sale of BPCL's stake in **Numaligarh Refinery in March 2021**.

Government launches operational guidelines of Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0

- **Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched the operational guidelines of **Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0**, in New Delhi.
- The SBM-U 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0 guidelines have been designed after multiple rounds of stakeholder consultations and feedback from them.
- The second phases of both the missions are set to transform the country into a really clean country.
- The **country had become ODF in 2019**, on the basis of third-party verification, and it will now move to ODF and ODF.
- The guidelines have been designed under the guiding principles that include equity and inclusiveness **to ensure that Mission benefits reach all sections of society, focus on capacity building, extensive digital enablement's for implementing every component of the Mission**

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya has released Krishi UDAN 2.0

- **Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya** released **Krishi UDAN 2.0** which lays out the vision of improving value realization through better integration and **optimization of Agri-harvesting and air transportation**.
- The scheme proposes to facilitate and incentivize the movement of **Agri-produce by air transportation**.
- Krishi UDAN 2.0 is an example of the **government's collaborative approach towards policymaking**.
- This scheme will open up new avenues of growth for the agriculture sector and help attain the goal of doubling farmers' income by removing barriers in the supply chain, logistics and transportation of farm produce.
- **The Krishi UDAN 2.0 will be implemented at 53 airports** across the country mainly focusing on **Northeast and tribal regions** and is likely to benefit farmers, freight forwarders and Airlines.

Prime Minister has arrived in Rome to attend 16th G-20 Summit

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- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arrived in Rome, Italy** to attend the **16th G-20 Summit**. Modi has participated in the Summit at the invitation of **Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi**.
- The summit will be attended by Heads of State of **G-20 Member Countries, the European Union, and other invited countries and International Organizations**.
- During the first leg of his visit to Italy, **Modi has held a joint meeting with President of European Council Charles Michel** and President of European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.
- During the second leg of his visit, Prime Minister Modi will leave for Glasgow to attend the World Leaders' Summit of the **26th Conference of Parties (COP-26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**.
- The high-level segment of COP-26 will be held on the 1st and 2nd of november. It will be attended by Heads of State of more than 120 countries.

Chennai-Mysore-Chennai Shatabdi Express becomes the first IMS certified train

- **Chennai - Mysore- Chennai Shatabdi Express** becomes the **first Integrated Management Systems certified train of Southern Railway**.
- The certificate has been given for maintenance and better use of environment-friendly resources and for offering travel comfort.
- This is also the **first Shatabdi of Indian Railways and the second express train on Indian Railways to bag this certification**.
- This certification has been granted by the certification agency after a comprehensive audit and duly verifying adherence by Railways to all laid down norms

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has launched 6th edition of National Formulary of India

- **Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** has launched the **6th edition of National Formulary of India** to promote rational use of medicines in the country.
- Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission has published the National Formulary of India, NFI. Speaking at the event, **Mandaviya appreciated the efforts of all the experts, doctors and researchers who contributed in the compilation of new edition**.
- **NFI, 2021** will act as a guidance document for all the healthcare professionals such as **clinicians, pharmacists, nurses and dentists**. It will play a crucial role in daily clinical practices.
- Medicines behave differently in different bodies and it is important to know about the content, impact and side effects of medicines. So that the NFI will be very beneficial for Clinicians and Healthcare professionals while prescribing the medicines to the patients.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has inaugurated 14th Urban Mobility Conference 2021

- **Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri** has inaugurated the **14th Urban Mobility Conference 2021** through video conference.
- The main theme of this year's conference is **Mobility for All** which focuses on providing equitable access and promote inclusive urban transportation.

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- This session will focus on policies and practices for re-framing urban mobility so that no one is left behind.
- Hardeep Singh Puri has **also present awards to the state and city winners for Excellence in Urban Transport.**

Dharmendra Pradhan Launches Phase II of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (2021-23)

- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, launched the second phase of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) for 2 years, 2021-2023 on October 25, 2021.**
- **MGNF Phase-II (National Roll Out) was launched on 25th October with 661 MGNFs** who will be deployed across all districts of the country.
- **8 more IIMs have been on boarded taking the total to 9 IIMs** (IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore, IIM-Jammu, IIM Kozhikode, IIM Lucknow, IIM Nagpur, IIM Ranchi, IIM-Udaipur and IIM Visakhapatnam).

Aim and Objective:

- It is a **two-year fellowship** to create opportunities for the youth and enhance skill development at the grassroots level along with the academic partner **IIM (Indian Institute of Management)** to conduct class sessions at the district level with vast experience in the field.
- Fellowship **aims to identify barriers to and create credible plans to increase employment**, economic output and promote livelihoods including global thinking and integrated local language in skill development efforts.
- **National Education Policy 2020** creates convergence between education and skill which reflects the fellowship that creates employment opportunities based on skills.

Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh Launched India's 1st Green Day Ahead Market

- **The Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, R K Singh launched India's 1st Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM) for the renewable energy (RE) to enable the electricity generation and distribution companies (Discoms) to trade (i.e., buy or sell) RE in the day-ahead market.**
- India is the **only large electricity market in the world to implement a GDAM** exclusively for RE.
- Objective is to **reduce the dependency on imported sources of fossil fuel.**

Narendra Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission from Varanasi, UP

- The Prime Minister (PM) of India **Narendra Damodardas Modi launched a pan-India scheme namely PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (UP).**
- He also inaugurated various development projects worth around **Rs 5200 crore for Varanasi.**
- This mission is a part of the **effort to achieve holistic health care** that is affordable and accessible to all.
- In a separate event, PM inaugurated nine medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh worth Rs 2,329 crore to make UP a medical hub of India.

Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue begins

- **Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD)** is scheduled to be held as a **three-day online event** that commences on **27, 28 and 29 October 2021.**
- It will focus on eight specific sub-themes under the broad theme of **"Evolution in Maritime Strategy during the 21st Century: Imperatives, Challenges, and, Way Ahead".**

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Aim :

- To review both opportunities and challenges that arise within the **Indo-Pacific**.

The eight sub-themes are:

1. Evolving Maritime Strategies within the Indo-Pacific: Convergences, Divergences, Expectations and Apprehensions.
2. Adaptive Strategies to Address the Impact of Climate Change upon Maritime Security.
3. Port-led Regional Maritime Connectivity and Development Strategies.
4. Cooperative Maritime Domain Awareness Strategies.
5. Impact of the Increasing Recourse to Lawfare upon a Rules-based Indo-Pacific Maritime Order.
6. Strategies to Promote Regional Public-Private Maritime Partnerships.
7. Energy-Insecurity and Mitigating Strategies.
8. Strategies to Address the Manned-Unmanned Conundrum at Sea

India, Israel has agreed to form task force to identify new areas of defence cooperation

- **India-Israel Joint Working Group on Bilateral Defence Cooperation** has agreed to form a Task Force to formulate a comprehensive **Ten-Year Roadmap to identify new areas of cooperation**.
- This was decided at the **15th Joint Working Group meeting held in Tel Aviv, Israel**. The meeting was **co-chaired by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and the Director General of the Israel's Ministry of Defence, Major General (Retd) Amir Eshel**.
- The Joint Working Group is the apex body between the Ministry of Defence of India and Israel's Ministry of Defence to comprehensively review and guide all aspects of Bilateral Defence Cooperation.
- The two sides reviewed the progress made in **Military-to-Military engagements including exercises and industry cooperation**.
- The **Co-chairs** were also apprised of the progress made by the Sub Working Groups on Defence Procurement and Production and Research and Development.
- It was also decided to form a **Sub Working Groups on Defence Industry Cooperation** and in this regard a Terms of Reference was signed between the two sides.

IITF 2021 to be held from November 14-27 at Pragati Maidan

- **India International Trade Fair (IITF)** will be held at **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi** from 14th of November to 27th November.
- The fair held annually, which witnesses record footfall, was not held last year due to the COVID19 outbreak.
- The **theme of the fair is 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) - the vision of 'New India'**.
- **Bihar is the 'Partner State' whereas Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are the "Focus States" in the fair**.
- So far, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bahrain, China, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Tunisia, Turkey, Sri Lanka and UAE have confirmed their participation in the fair.
- The **New Exhibition Complex was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13th of October**.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh has launched Indian manned Ocean Mission Samudrayan

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- **Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh** has launched the Indian manned Ocean Mission **Samudrayan in Chennai**.
- India has joined the elite club of Nations such as the **USA, Russia, Japan, France and China** to have such underwater vehicles for carrying out sub-sea activities.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences is carrying out deep ocean exploration of the non-living resources such as **polymetallic manganese nodules, gas hydrates, hydrothermal sulphides and cobalt crusts located at a depth between 1000 and 5500 metres**.
- Sea trials of 500 metre rated shallow water version of the manned submersible are expected to take place in the last quarter of 2022 and the **MATSYA 6000, the deep-water manned submersible will be ready for trials by the second quarter of 2024**.
- NIOT is indigenously developing a manned submersible designed to carry three persons in 2.1 diameter Titanium Alloy Personal Sphere with an operational endurance of 12 hours and systems to support emergency endurance upto 96 hours.

IMAC has approved seven proposals with total project cost of over Rs. 216 crores

- **Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Pashupati Kumar Paras** chaired the **Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee (IMAC)** meeting to consider the proposals received under the Scheme for Creation of Infrastructure for **Agro-Processing Cluster of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana**.
- During the meeting, IMAC approved seven proposals with a total project cost of over **216 crore rupees**.
- This includes grants-in-aid of over 52 crore rupees in the States and UTs of **Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu**.
- These projects will **leverage private investment of around 163 crore rupees** and are expected to generate employment for 12,400 persons and benefit 28,000 farmers.
- Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, **Prahlad Singh Patel** along with senior officials of the Ministry and promoters of projects were also present in the meeting.

NITI Aayog has released the report on Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle

- **NITI Aayog has released a comprehensive report titled Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle**, which brings out the gaps in the health insurance coverage across the Indian population and offers solutions to address the situation.
- The report was launched in the presence of **NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant and Additional Secretary Dr Rakesh Sarwal**.
- **NITI Aayog Member V.K. Paul**, in the Foreword of the report has highlighted the need for health insurance coverage for all and significant challenges will need to be overcome to increase the penetration of **health insurance**.
- The government and the private sector will need to come together in this endeavor. The private sector ingenuity and **efficiency is required to reach the missing middle and offer compelling products**.

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- The government has an important role to play in increasing consumer awareness and confidence, modifying regulation for **standardized product and consumer protection**, and potentially offering a platform to improve operational efficiency.
- The report is an effort to **re-invigorate the dialogue on increasing financial protection** for health and the broader goal of **Universal Health Coverage**.

SC appoints 3-member Expert Panel to Investigate on Pegasus Spyware Usage

- A Supreme Court (SC) bench headed by **Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana** instituted a 3-member expert panel to investigate the issue on usage of 'Pegasus Spyware' on Indian Citizens during 2019.

3-member expert panel:

- Naveen Kumar Chaudhary – He is a **Cyber Security expert & the Dean of National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**
- Prabaharan P – With **Expertise in Malware detection & Critical infrastructure security**, Prabaharan serves as Professor (School of Engineering), Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
- Ashwin Anil Gumaste – He was **awarded Vikram Sarabhai Research Award (2012) and Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology (2018)**, & currently serves as an Associate Professor in IIT Bombay
- The 3-member technical panel will submit the reports to former SC Judge RV Raveendran, who will be assisted by former IPS officer Alok Joshi and Sundeep Oberoi.

ROIP system inaugurated at SMP Port, Kolkata; BPCL Conducted 1st Ship-to-ship LPG transfer at SMP Port

- On October 26, 2021, the **Radio over Internet Protocol (ROIP) System at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP, Kolkata), West Bengal (WB)** was inaugurated for the first time in any Major Indian Port.
- It is being introduced as a marine communication mode covering **the entire Hugli River Estuary from Kolkata to Sandheads, having base stations at 4 Locations**.
- Again, for the first time ever in the history of major ports, SMP, Kolkata has successfully handled **ship-to-ship (STS) lighterage operation of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) of BPCL (Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited) at Sandheads**.

Civil Aviation Minister Launches Scheme to Promote Agri-Products Transportation by Air – Krishi UDAN 2.0'

- Civil Aviation Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** launched **Krishi Udan 2.0** scheme to implement **in 53 airports under which cargo-related infrastructure will be built mainly focusing on north-east, hilly and tribal regions** and likely benefits farmers.
- They aimed at opening new ventures of growth for agriculture sectors and also doubling farmer's income by removing barriers in supply chain and transportation of farm produce.

Addl.Info:

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**) and the Ministry of Civil Aviation (**MoCA**) signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for development of Seaplane services in India**.
- The agreement will help in development of new water aerodromes and operationalization of new Seaplane routes in India.

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Revision Points

Portfolio	Union Minister	Constituency
Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions	Narendra Modi	Varanasi
Ministry of Defence	Rajnath Singh	Lucknow
Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation	Amit Shah	Gandhinagar
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	Nitin Gadkari	Nagpur
Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Mansukh L. Mandaviya	Palitana
Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Corporate Affairs	Nirmala Sitharaman	Andhra Pradesh
Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles	Piyush Goyal (Additional charge)	Maharashtra
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare	Narendra Singh Tomar	Morena (Madhya Pradesh)
Ministry of Law and Justice	Kiren Rijju	Arunachal West
Ministry of Railways Ministry of communications & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Ashwini Vaishnaw	Odisha
Ministry of Food Processing Industries	Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Hajipur(Bihar)
Ministry of Social justice and empowerment	Dr. Virendra Kumar	Tikamgarh (Madhya Pradesh).
Ministry of External Affairs	Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	RS (Gujarat)
Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Dharmendra Pradhan	Haridwar
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Arjun Munda	Khunti
Ministry of Women and child Development	Smriti Zubin Irani	Amethi



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,Ministry of Science and Technology & Ministry of Earth Sciences	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Udhampur, J&K
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change Ministry of Labour and Employment	Bhupender Yadav	Rajasthan
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	Anurag Singh Thakur	Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh)
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	Hardeep Singh Puri	Uttar Pradesh
Ministry of Minority Affairs	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Uttar Pradesh
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of coal & Ministry of Mines	Prahlad Joshi	Dharwad
Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	G. Kishan Reddy	Secunderabad (Telangana)
Ministry of Animal Husbandry, dairying and fisheries	Parshottam Rupala	Amreli (Gujarat)
Ministry of Jal Shakti	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Jodhpur
Ministry of Heavy Industries	Mahendra Nath Pandey	Chandauli
Ministry of Civil Aviation	Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Gwalior East (Madhya Pradesh)
Ministry of Steel	Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Bihar
Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	Sarbananda Sonowal	Majuli
Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	Narayan Tatu Rane	Kankavli (Maharashtra)
Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj	Giriraj Singh	Begusarai

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Important International News

ONGC Videsh begins its First exploratory drilling campaign in Bangladesh

- **ONGC Videsh Limited** has started its first exploratory **drilling campaign in Bangladesh** for finding oil and gas.
- This exploratory well is planned to be drilled to a depth of 4200 meters.
- It will target two prospective formations. The exploratory drilling will be followed by drilling at two more exploratory locations.
- **ONGC Videsh Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).**
- **The pre-drilling activities were completed with the rig being on location in late 2019.** The spudding scheduled for March 2020 was delayed due to COVID pandemic.

India's Ambassador to China has called for reformed multilateralism, resilience and redundancy in global value chains

- **India's Ambassador to China Vikram Misri** has called for reformed multilateralism, resilience and redundancy in global value chains to meet current and future challenges. Delivering a lecture at **New Development Bank (NDB) Think Lab, Shanghai also the serious reform of global political and economic architecture** is necessary.
- Political, technological and economic shifts taking place over the **last 75 years have impacted the multilateral system**, which has not kept pace with either the diffusion of political power or the economic rebalancing that has taken place.
- Policy framework of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, labor/agriculture/education reforms, focus on startups and economic stimulus are propelling India forward. This is good news for NDB, as India is its largest client. India is also leading on SDGs through ISA and CDRI

Mamady Doumbouya sworn in as interim President of Guinea:

- **Colonel Mamady Doumbouya was sworn in as Interim President of coastal West African country of Guinea.**
- Colonel Doumbouya, who led the overthrow of President Alpha Conde on **5th of last month was sworn in by Supreme Court Head Mamadou Sylla** for a transition period of unspecified length.
- The new Interim President spoke of his commitment that neither he nor any member of the junta would stand in any future elections that the military have promised to organise after a transition period

North Korea Test-Fired Hypersonic Missile: Hwasong-8

- The North Korean Academy of National Defense Science has test-fired a newly-developed hypersonic missile, **'the Hwasong-8'**.
- Hwasong series missiles used liquid-propellant engines with an **ampoule fuel system**.
- **North Korea has used the ampoule fuel system for the 1st time.**
- The missile has nuclear capabilities and they have named it a **'strategic weapon'**.

NTPC REL signs 1st Green Term Loan Pact of Rs 500 cr with Bank of India

- The NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd. (REL) signed its **first Green Term Loan (GTL) agreement of Rs 500 crores with Bank of India (BoI) for a period of 15 years.**
- The loan will be used for the development of **470 MW (Mega Watt) solar project in Rajasthan and 200 MW solar project in Gujarat.**

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- A green loan is a type of loan instrument enabling borrowers to finance environmental projects.

Signatories:

- It was signed in the presence of **NTPC Director (Finance) Anil Kumar Gautam, Chandan Kumar Mondal, Chairman of NTPC REL; and Mohit Bhargava, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NTPC REL** and senior officials from Bank of India.

Indel Money ties up with IndusInd Bank for 1st Gold Loan co-lending Partnership

- A first-of-its-kind conventional gold loan co-lending partnership has been generated between a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), Indel Money, and a commercial bank i.e. IndusInd Bank.**
- Under this tie-up, **IndusInd Bank will offer gold loans at competitive rates to its customers, which will be processed by Indel Money on mutually formulated credit parameters and eligibility criteria.**
- **80% of gold loans will be funded by IndusInd Bank while the remaining 20% will be funded by Indel Money.**

Gandhi Museum has inaugurated at Noakhali in Bangladesh

- On the occasion of the **152 birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the renovated Gandhi Museum was inaugurated at the historic Gandhi Ashram Trust at Noakhali in Bangladesh.**
- The inauguration was done by the **Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr A K Abdul Momen, Law Minister Advocate Anisul Huq and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami.**
- The renovation of the Museum housed inside the Gandhi Ashram campus has been supported by India. **The guests visited the Gandhi Memorial Museum and appreciated the unique display of memorabilia and artefacts related to Mahatma Gandhi.**
- A seminar on the theme of **Ahimsa, Satyagraha and the Mahatma - Revisited** was also organised to **commemorate the International Day of Non-Violence and the 152nd Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Ashram, Noakhali as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.**
- Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen recalled the influence of Mahatma Gandhi on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Bangladesh Naval ship reached Visakhapatnam on 5-day visit

- **Bangladesh Naval Ship (BNS) Somudra Avijan has reached Visakhapatnam on a five day visit to the Eastern Naval Command.** The officers and crew of **BNS Avijan** were accorded a traditional welcome by the representatives of the Eastern Naval Command and the Eastern Fleet with the navy band in attendance, said an official press release.
- **The BNS Somudra Avijan is visiting India for the joint celebration of the birth centenary year of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and golden jubilee of the Liberation War of Bangladesh.**
- A series of activities between the two navies are scheduled during the 5-day visit of **BNS Somudra Avijan. These include professional interactions, cross-deck visits, visit to INS Vishwakarma and INS Dega.**
- A special documentary on the Bangladesh Navy and interaction with 1971 war veterans would be major highlights of the visit.

ADB signs agreement with Bangladesh of USD 400 million loan for highway development:

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- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the government of Bangladesh signed the agreement for USD 400 million in loan for constructing the Dhaka-Sylhet highway to improve mobility, road safety and regional trade in the north east economic corridor in Bangladesh.**
- It is the first tranche of the USD 1.78 billion financing facility approved by ADB for the **South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Dhaka-Sylhet Road investment project.**
- It will be utilised for widening of about 210 kilometres of Dhaka-Sylhet road from 2-lane to 4 lane highway among other activities.

Fumio Kishida to be sworn-in as new Prime Minister of Japan

- **Japan's Parliament elected former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida as the Prime Minister. He is the 100th Prime Minister in the country's political history.**
- He is from **Liberal Democratic Party, the main ruling party.**
- He **replaces Yoshihide Suga**, who resigned after only one year in office as his support plunged over his government's handling of the pandemic and insistence on holding the Tokyo Olympics as the virus spread.
- Mr Kishida is expected to make a policy speech in Parliament but is looking to dissolve the lower house to hold elections on the 31st of October.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated the new Prime Minister of Japan Kishida Fumio.** He looks forward to working with him to further strengthen the special strategic and global partnership and advance peace and prosperity in the region and beyond.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sworn in for second time

- **Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed** sworn in for a second five-year term running a country in the grip of a nearly year-long war.
- His Prosperity Party was **declared the winner of Parliamentary Elections earlier this year in a vote criticized and at times boycotted by opposition parties.** However, outside electoral observers described the poll as better run than those in the past.
- **Mr Abiy, the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize winner** for restoring ties with neighbouring Eritrea and for pursuing sweeping political reforms.
- Ethiopia's Government last week faced condemnation from the United Nations, United States and several European nations after it expelled seven U.N. officials it accused of supporting the Tigray forces who have been battling Ethiopian and allied forces.

Adani Group Signed \$700 Million Agreement with SLPA to Develop Sri Lanka's Port

- The Adani group **signed a more than \$700-million build-operate-transfer agreement** with the Sri Lankan government-owned Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) and John Keells Holdings (from Sri Lanka) **for 35 years to jointly develop a Colombo Western Container Terminal (WCT).**
- It is **the 1st largest foreign investment** in the port sector of Sri Lanka.
- Adani Group has **become the largest foreign investor under its port sector.**

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- The Adani group holds the **51 percent controlling stake of the investment** in the Colombo WCT, whereas the John Keels and the SLPA will hold the remaining **34 percent and 15 percent stake in WCT**.
- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) Limited is the largest developer and operator company in India which holds 24 percent of the overall port capacity in India.

Elon Musk Overtakes Jeff Bezos to Become World's Richest Person: Bloomberg Billionaires Index

- According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a daily ranking of the world's richest people, as of 28th September 2021, with a total net worth of **213 billion USD**, **Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla has overtaken Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon, (total net worth of 197 billion USD) to become the world's richest person.**
- Elon Musk gained **13 billion USD in net worth with a rise in the share price of tesla.**
- **Bernard Arnault, the chairman of Louis Vuitton (LVMH) has secured the 3rd position with a net worth of 160 billion USD.**
- **Mukesh Ambani Topped among Indians & ranked 11th globally.**
- **Gautam Adani followed him & ranked 14th globally.**

WB Approved US\$ 40 million Project for Meghalaya

- WB also approved a US\$ 40 million (around Rs 296 crore) project titled '**Meghalaya Health Systems Strengthening Project**' to improve the quality of health services in Meghalaya and strengthen the state's capacity to handle health emergencies, including the COVID-19.
- All 11 districts of the state will benefit from the project and it will enable women to better utilize health care services at the community level.
- The **Under-5 mortality in Meghalaya in FY20 was about 40 deaths per 1,000 live births and stunting among under-5 was about 47 percent.**
- **Non-communicable diseases (including hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, and cancer) account for more than half of the disease burden in the state.**

Denmark PM Mette Frederiksen to be on 3-day State Visit to India

- **Prime Minister of Denmark Ms. Mette Frederiksen** will be on a three days State Visit to India from 9th of this month.
- During the visit, Ms Frederiksen will call on the President Ram Nath Kovind and hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The visit by Ms. Frederiksen will give both sides an opportunity to discuss the entire gamut of **bilateral relations and review the progress in implementation of the Green Strategic Partnership.**
- Both sides will also discuss regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.
- During the Virtual Summit held on 28th September last year, **India and Denmark had established a Green Strategic Partnership**

WTO raised 2021 Global Trade Volume Forecast to 10.8% from 8%

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) elevated its **global goods trade volume growth to 10.8% in 2021 which is an ascendent revision from 8% forecasted in March 2021.**

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- For 2022, this growth will slow to 4.7% which still an increase from previous forecast of 4%.
- Global GDP (Gross Domestic Product) will grow 5.3%, up from 5.1% forecasted in March 2021.
- For 2022, Global GDP growth is estimated to 4.1% in 2022, up from 3.8% previously.

About World Trade Organization (WTO):

- Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland
- Director-General– Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
- Members– 164 (including India)

India's 1st, World's 3rd Ropeway Public Transport Proposed to be Constructed in Varanasi

- India's 1st and world's 3rd ropeway for public transport was planned to be constructed in the city of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to ease the traffic congestion.
- The ropeway service will cover an aerial distance of ~5 km from Cantt Railway Station (Varanasi Junction, Uttar Pradesh) to Church Square (Godauliya) by 15 minutes.
- On completion of this, Varanasi will become the 1st Indian city and India will become the third country in the world (after Bolivia and Mexico City) to use ropeway services in public transportation.
- WAPCOS Limited, an accredited public sector enterprise under the Union ministry of Jal Shakti has proposed the cost of the ropeway service at Rs 400 crore.

UN warns water shortage can hit five billion people by 2050

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) warns that the number of people affected by water scarcity is expected to rise as climate change increases the global risk of water-related hazards like floods and droughts.
- According to the report 'The State of Climate Services 2021: Water', 3.6 billion people had inadequate access to water at least one month per year in 2018.
- The situation is expected to rise to more than five billion by 2050.
- Terrestrial water storage (TWS) dropped at a rate of 1 cm per year in 20 years (2002-2021).
- There is only 0.5 per cent of water on Earth which is usable and available freshwater.
- India is the topmost hotspot of TWS loss with the northern part of the country experiencing the maximum loss.
- If the loss of water storage in Antarctica and Greenland is excluded, India has recorded the highest loss in terrestrial water storage.

India and Croatia signed an agreement for academic collaboration in traditional medicine systems

- India and Croatia have signed an agreement for academic collaboration in traditional medicine systems, especially in the field of Ayurveda.
- The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the All India Institute of Ayurveda and Croatia's Kvarner Health Tourism Cluster
- The MoU with Croatia is a significant step towards bolstering India's ties with other countries and promoting academic research, clinical and educational activities, medical education, training, and competency building

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- **Manoj Nesari, Adviser-Ayurveda, Ministry of Ayush**, signed the MoU on behalf of AIIA in the presence of Special Secretary of Ayush **Pramod Kumar Pathak** and India's Ambassador to Croatia **Raj Shrivastava**.
- The two countries will also develop academic standards and courses in accordance with the needs of the institution, end-users and stakeholders and develop ayurvedic medical education guidelines for **ayurveda education in Croatia**.

Working Conditions of teachers in Northeast, aspirational districts poor: UNESCO SOER report 2021

- This report is the **3rd edition of the SOER**, an annual flagship report of UNESCO.
- It analysed data from the **Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2018-19** and the periodic **labour force survey 2018-19**.
- In accordance with the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) report titled '**The report – 2021 State of the Education Report (SOER) for India: No Teachers, No Class**', Indian teachers are facing basic amenities like toilets in northeast and aspirational districts. There are disparities for the same between urban and rural schools.

India and Kyrgyz Republic agreed on 200 million US Dollar Line of Credit

- **External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar** has agreed on 200 million US Dollar Line of Credit to support development projects.
- They concluded an **understanding on executing high impact community projects**. Both the leaders discussed need for **early travel of Indian students** and more liberal visa regime.
- They **agreed to encourage countries' Chambers and business to work** closely while the governments will continue to play a facilitative role.
- The signing of the new Bilateral Investment Treaty in 2019 and the mutual agreement on date of entry into force of **the Amended Protocol of the India-Kyrgyz Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement** are important steps in that regard.
- Some agreements or MoUs are also expected to be signed during the visit. He will attend the **6th Ministerial Meeting of the Conference of Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, (CICA)** in Nur-Sultan.

UNHRC Declares Access to a Clean, Healthy Environment a Human Right

- **High Commissioner for United Nation Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Michelle Bachelet** addresses the **Human Rights Council** and recognised access to a clean and healthy environment as a fundamental right.
- Triple planetary threats of climate change, pollution, and nature loss are described by her as the single greatest human rights challenge and recognizes the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- The council encouraged States to adopt policies for the enjoyment of the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and invited the General Assembly to consider the matter.
- The new resolution was proposed by **Costa Rica, the Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia, and Switzerland** and passed with **significant support of 43 votes**.
- **Russia, India, China and Japan** abstained from voting.
- As per the data of the World Health Organization (WHO), **24 percent of all global deaths, ~13.7 million deaths a year, are linked to the environment**, due to risks such as air pollution and chemical exposure.

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IMF Retained India's 2021 GDP Growth Forecast to 9.5%

- In its October 2021 World Economic Outlook (WEO) titled '**Recovery During a Pandemic Health Concerns, Supply Disruptions, and Price Pressures**', the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has retained India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for 2021 unchanged at 9.5 percent (July 2021 forecast).
- **India's GDP growth forecast for 2022 was also unchanged at 8.5 percent.**
- The IMF has reduced the global economy growth in 2021 **by 0.1 percent to 5.9 percent (from 6 percent of July 2021 projection) and the growth was projected at 4.9 percent in 2022.**
- India's consumer price index-based inflation is **expected to be at 5.6 percent in 2021 (reduced from 6.2 percent in 2020) and expected inflation to be at 4.9 percent in 2022.**

About International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- MD – Kristalina Georgieva
- Establishment – 1944
- Headquarters – Washington, D.C., United States
- Member Countries – 190

PM Narendra Modi Participated in Virtual G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Meeting 2021 on Afghanistan

- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually participated in the '**G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Meeting on Afghanistan**', which has been organised **to discuss the situation in Afghanistan.**
- The meeting was **convened by Italy (as it is currently holding the G20 Presidency) and chaired by Italian PM Mario Draghi.**

WHO releases 1st Ever Global Roadmap to Defeat Meningitis by 2030

- The World Health Organization (WHO) along with its partners (including UNICEF, PATH, the Gates Foundation) have launched the 1st ever Global strategy to defeat "**Meningitis**"- a disease that kills hundreds of thousands of people **each year.**
- The strategy "**Global Roadmap to Defeat Meningitis by 2030**" was launched by WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, during a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

What is Meningitis

- Meningitis is an inflammatory disease that affects the membranes that surrounds the Brain & Spinal cord.
- It can be caused by either Bacteria or by Viruses, while the one caused by Bacteria is the most serious one leading to around 250,000 deaths a year.
- WHO Target – As per the current roadmap, WHO & its partners target to eliminate the Bacterial Meningitis by 2030 & reduce the overall deaths by 70%.
- WHO & partners, decided on collaborative research towards vaccines for Meningitis & provide proper guidance to countries to eliminate the disease.
- Meningitis as an epidemic is spread across the world, yet most prevalent in the 26 Sub-Saharan African Countries.

India and Armenia to enhance cooperation in trade, education, cultural exchanges

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- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar who is in Yerevan, Armenia** on the third and last leg of visit to central Asia paid homage at the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial Complex.
- He had a warm and productive meeting **with Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan. They discussed a roadmap to take the bilateral cooperation forward. Both agreed on enhancing the trade, education and cultural exchanges.**
- The Ministers recognised the shared interests in strengthening connectivity, including the International North South Transport corridor.
- The External Affairs Minister met President of the **National Assembly of Armenia Alen Simonyan. Dr. Jaishankar appreciated the National Assembly President's** perspective on regional and international issues of shared interest.

8th Edition of joint military exercise MITRA SHAKTI

- The **8th Edition of joint military exercise MITRA SHAKTI between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army culminated in Ampara, Sri Lanka.**
- The exercise commenced on the 4th of this month.
- Exercise Mitra Shakti, based on **counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in semi urban terrain is the largest bilateral exercise being undertaken by the Sri Lankan Army** and it forms a major part of India and Sri Lanka's growing defence partnership.
- Defence Ministry, during **the past 14 days, both the contingents displayed great enthusiasm and professionalism while practising joint drills.**
- The participating contingents expressed immense satisfaction at the termination of the exercise in terms of standards achieved during the conduct of the exercise.

IMF releases 'Global Financial Stability Report 2021' – analyses 'Cryptoization'

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the '**Global Financial Stability Report-2021**', that discusses the adaptation of cryptocurrencies in emerging markets, the report mainly discusses '**Cryptoization**'.
- The **IMF names the potential of macro-financial risks due to asset and currency substitution as 'cryptoization'**.

Challenges in Crypto-ecosystem:

- No reliable method for estimating flow of crypto assets across countries.
- Inefficient Payment systems & Unethical macroeconomic policies leading to Cryptoization.
- **Risk of Investor protection for crypto-assets.**
- India ranks 2nd in the 'Global Crypto Adoption Index 2021', which was topped by Vietnam
- India's daily Crypto trading volume peaks between \$300 - \$500 million, with establishment of over 300 new blockchain companies in 2021

Foreign Ministers of India, US, Israel and UAE hold virtual meeting

- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar, Foreign Minister of Israel Yair Lapid, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Foreign Minister of United Arab Emirates Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan** held a meeting through video conferencing.

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- They discussed working together more closely on **economic growth and global issues**. The leaders also agreed on expeditious follow-up.
- They also discussed "**expanding economic and political cooperation in the Middle East and Asia, including through trade**"
- This is a collection of four countries – **the US, the UAE, Israel and India** – with whom we share many interests." India has close relations with all three countries. After the US pulled out its troops from Afghanistan, China, which borders that country, is exerting its influence there with an eye on projecting its power beyond.

India, Israel agreed to resume negotiations on Free Trade Agreement

- **India and Israel have agreed to resume negotiations on Free Trade Agreement** next month and the confidence that negotiations will be concluded by June next year.
- Both Ministers has a **wide range of regional and global issues**. They agreed in principle on mutual recognition of Covid vaccination certification. Jaishankar also welcomed Israel as **the newest member of International Solar Alliance**.
- **The External Affairs Minister also paid homage to the victims of the Holocaust at Yad Vashem and this memorial is a testimony** to the human spirit of resilience and strengthens the resolve to fight evil.
- He also visited **the Kadavumbagam Synagogue at the Israel Museum** and met younger members of the **Cochini-Jewish community there**.

India Worst-hit in TB elimination – ‘Global TB report’ by WHO

- **The World Health Organisation (WHO) released the ‘Global TB report’ for 2021**, where it highlighted the effects of COVID-19 which led to a huge reversal in the progress of Tuberculosis (TB) elimination.
- The report also **mentioned India as the worst-hit country in TB elimination**, where the **detection of new TB cases saw a huge impact in 2020**.
- **A dramatic reduction of 20% TB cases were witnessed in 2020 as compared to 2019**, ie; a gap of 4.1 million cases.

Highlights of FM Nirmala Sitharaman’s Visit to the USA in October 2021

- The union minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman made a week-long official visit to the USA (United States of America) to **attend the Annual Meetings of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meetings, India-US Economic and Financial Dialogue, and other associated investment meetings**.

Around USD 4 trillion required in clean energy investment to limit global warming: IEA

- In accordance with the **‘World Energy Outlook (WEO) 2021 report’** by International Energy Agency (IEA), **almost USD 4 trillion investment into clean energy is required by 2030** to meet the Paris Agreement **pledge to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius**.
- The report is released ahead of the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference, or **COP26, which will take place in Glasgow** from October 31 to November 12, 2021.
- WEO 2021 will act as a guidebook to COP26.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Global Transport Sector needs \$ 49.9tn investment by 2040 to reduce GHG: Report by UNOPS

- In accordance with the report by United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), there is dire need of cleaning up the transport sector to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and contain global warming.
- To achieve this, there is also a need for massive investments for green mobility like electric and hydrogen fuel vehicles estimated at \$ 49.9 trillion by 2040.
- The report highlighted that 16% of the GHG emissions are through the transport sector after energy and buildings.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin-not attending UN COP26 climate summit in Glasgow

- Russia's President Vladimir Putin will not attend the UN COP26 (Conference of the Parties) climate summit in Glasgow, the Kremlin.
- No reason was given for the decision not to attend, but a Kremlin spokesperson, climate change was an "important" priority for Russia.
- COP26 takes place in Scotland's largest city from 31 October to 12 November. Russia's decision is seen as a blow to efforts to get leaders to negotiate a new deal to stall rising global temperatures.
- Unfortunately, Putin will not fly to Glasgow, that climate change was "one of our foreign policy's most important priorities."
- Putin has not commented on the official announcement, but at an international energy forum in Moscow on 13 October, the Russian leader cited the coronavirus pandemic as a factor in his decision to travel.

FATF retains Pakistan on its grey list; Turkey also added to list

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has retained Pakistan on its Grey List.
- FATF President Marcus Pleyer announced the decision was after a three-day-long plenary session of the global terror financing watchdog in Paris.
- Pakistan government failed to comply with four of action points out of 34-point action plan given by FATF.
- Three other countries - Turkey, Mali and Jordan have been added to the FATF Grey List.

Addl.Info:

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris.
- The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- Headquarters - Paris.
- Member Countries: 37 members (India is one of the members).
- It meets three times per year.

Grey List

- Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list.
- This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

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Over 700,000 people displaced by the worst floods to hit South Sudan in decades: UN

- **The United Nations** says more than **700,000 people** have been displaced by the worst floods to hit **South Sudan** in decades.
- At least 40 people have died across the country as heavy rains and flash floods destroy livestock, farmlands and homes.
- The floods have mainly affected four states.
- Some of those who have fled have been displaced numerous times over due to conflict and three years of consecutive flooding.
- Scientists have **blamed climate change for the flooding in South Sudan and other countries in eastern Africa**

Poland recognizes India's Serum Institute-manufactured Covishield vaccine

- **Poland** has recognized the **Serum Institute of India (SII)-manufactured Covishield** vaccine as an equivalent to those recognized by the European Union.
- With this, those who have taken the Covishield vaccine will be exempted from quarantine after entering the country.
- "Poland has recognized #Covishield as a vaccine equivalent to those recognized by the European Union, exempting from quarantine **after entering the territory of the Republic of Poland**
- Meanwhile, emphasising on the scientific approach of India amid the COVID-19 pandemic, **it is a matter of pride that the vaccination programme was "science-born, science-driven and science-based**
- Meanwhile, **more than 100.59 crore vaccine doses** have been administered so far to eligible beneficiaries, as per **the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**

UK Navy Chief Admiral meets Indian counterpart in New Delhi

- **United Kingdom Navy Chief Admiral Sir Tony Radakin** met **Indian Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh** in New Delhi.
- Amongst other naval bilateral cooperation issues, the Chiefs emphasised on **collaborative mechanisms towards ensuring peace and security in the region.**
- Admiral Radakin is on a three-day visit to India.
- He is also scheduled to visit Indian Navy's Western Naval Command at Mumbai wherein Admiral Radakin will interact with Vice admiral R. Hari Kumar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.

India hands over Jaynagar-Kurtha cross-border rail link to Nepal govt

- India handed over **34.9 km long cross-border rail link** connecting Jaynagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Nepal-to-Nepal government.
- The handing over ceremony took place in the presence of Nepal minister for physical Infrastructure and transport Renu Kumari Yadav and Indian ambassador to Nepal Vinay M. Kwatra.
- **The Jaynagar - Kurtha section is part of the 68.7 km Jaynagar - Bijalpura- Bardidas rail link** built under the Government of India's grant assistance programme.
- Under the grant assistance of India, **the gauge conversion of 34.9 km narrow gauge**, from Jaynagar in India to Kurtha in Nepal, has now been completed.

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- Railway Sources said once operationalised the cross-border rail link is expected to enhance trade and commerce activities as well as people to people linkage between the two countries.

G-7 nations agree on principles to govern cross-border data use & digital trade

- **The Group of Seven nations agreed on principles to govern cross-border data use and digital trade.**
- **Trade ministers from the G7 reached the agreement** at a meeting in London.
- Britain described it as a breakthrough that could liberalise hundreds of billions of dollars of international commerce.
- The deal sets out a middle ground between highly regulated data protection regimes used in European countries and the more open approach of the United States.
- In statement, Britain said we have adopted the G7 Digital Trade Principles that will guide the G7's approach to digital trade.
- **G7 comprises the US, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada.**

France to pay 38m citizens €100 each to help counter surge in fuel, energy prices

- The French government has announced a **one-off payment of €100 (\$116) for each citizen** whose **monthly net income is €2,000 or less**, to help counter the surge in fuel and energy prices.
- The **inflation allowance** will go to **about 38 million French people automatically**, including those who do not drive a car or ride a motorbike.
- The first payments will go to business employees in late December.
- Civil servants, students and pensioners will get theirs in early 2022
- Europe is facing widespread **discontent after world energy prices spiked**, largely a result of **huge demand from businesses recovering from the long Covid paralysis**.
- The **energy market turmoil** has had a **knock-on effect, disrupted supply chains** and caused some **shortages of fuel and other consumer goods**.

Ethiopian authorities confirm national air force shelled Tigray regional capital of Mekelle

- **Ethiopian authorities have confirmed the national air force** shelled the **Tigray regional capital of Mekelle**
- The ongoing struggle in **Ethiopia's Tigray region has killed thousands of people** and displaced more than two million.
- Tigray media has also shown footage of what appeared to be child soldiers allegedly fighting on the government's side.
- Meanwhile the **Ethiopian government has been accusing the Tigrayan fighters of using child soldiers** since they **recaptured Mekelle** in June.

The new comprehensive assessment report by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- The new comprehensive assessment report titled **"From Pollution to Solution: a global assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution"** released by the United Nations (UN) Environment Programme (UNEP) has stated that without proper efforts to reduce ocean plastic pollution, the amount of plastic waste entering the aquatic ecosystem is estimated to triple **from 9-14 million tons per year in 2016 to 23-37 million tons per year by 2040**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- With another approach, plastic pollution is estimated to double from **19-23 million tons in 2016 to around 53 million tons by 2030.**
- At present, the amount of plastics in the oceans is estimated to be around 75-199 million tons.

Addl.Info:

- This report will inform the discussion at the 5th session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) in 2022.

G7 Countries launches 'G7 Digital Trade Principles' to facilitate Digital Trade

- The G7 or Group of Seven countries finalised **a set of principles that will govern cross-border data usage & digital trade.**
- The principles named '**G7 Digital Trade Principles**', were adopted by the respective Trade Ministers of G7 members (UK, USA, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan) during the G7 Trade Summit that was held at Mansion House, in London, Britain.
- Principles – **Open Digital Markets; Cross border data flows; Safeguards for workers, consumers & businesses; digital trading systems; Fair & inclusive Global governance.**
- Key obstacles under consideration were on data localisation & cross-border data flows, thereby protecting intellectual property rights, and security of users.
- The principles were established in **consideration of the highly regulated data protection rules of European countries and the more open ones of the United States.**
- These new principles **will liberalise hundreds of billions of dollars' worth international trade.**

Addl.Info:

- Google India became the 1st technology company which is qualified as 'Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs)' to publish a Transparency report under India's new IT Rules
- G7 countries have introduced a Global Minimum Corporate Tax rate of at least 15% on Multinational Companies (MNCs).

Myanmar skips ASEAN summit to protest general's exclusion

- **Southeast Asian leaders** began a virtual summit **with Myanmar skipping the annual meeting in protest after its top general** was shut out for refusing to cooperate in defusing the crisis in his country since the military takeover.
- **The exclusion of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing** was an embarrassment for Myanmar's military and the harshest rebuke by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.
- **Brunei, who is this year's chair of the 10-member bloc**, invited Myanmar's highest-ranking veteran diplomat, Chan Aye, as a "non-political" representative but she didn't attend the meeting.
- **Myanmar's Foreign Ministry vowed to challenge ASEAN's unprecedented move to downgrade its participation in the three-day summit**, which is being held by video due to coronavirus concerns.
- It has informed Brunei that it can only accept participation by the general, who now heads Myanmar's government and ruling military council, or a ministerial-level representative.

India and Sweden celebrated its 8th Innovation Day

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- India and Sweden are celebrating 8th Innovation Day on 27th October.
- An online event themed 'Accelerating India Sweden's Green Transition' is being hosted by India Unlimited in association with the Embassy of India in Sweden, Sweden-India Business Council and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- India Unlimited was founded in 2013 to promote cross-cultural ties between India and Sweden in association with the Embassy of India in Sweden and Sweden-India Business Council.
- In the last seven years, the organization has hosted a number of events in Stockholm and Gothenburg showcasing the diversity of Indian cultural, economic and social life.
- The one-day event is divided into nine parts to discuss various aspects of climate change and the possible solutions to bring green transition.

14% of world's corals lost in 10 years due to Global Warming: Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2020 Report

- In accordance with the 6th edition of 'Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020' report by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) there is loss of 14% of the world's coral since 2009 to 2018.
- The loss is varied by region, ranging from 5% in East Asia to 95% in the eastern tropical Pacific.
- The report provided the most detailed scientific picture to date of the elevated temperatures affecting the world's reefs.
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provided financial, technical and communication support to the report.

AIIB, ADB to co-finance USD 2 billion loan for India's fight against COVID-19

- China-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) along with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are currently processing a USD 2 billion loan for India to purchase COVID-19 vaccines.
- Of the USD 2 billion loan, the Manila-based ADB is expected to finance USD 1.5 billion and AIIB is considering providing USD 500 million.
- The ADB has agreed to finance USD 1.5 billion and AIIB will supplement with another USD 500 million.
- The loan is under consideration from the AIIB board, India has applied for it three months ago. About 667 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines were expected to be procured through the loan, according to the Bank.
- Significantly, the AIIB sponsored by China has not funded any projects under Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) nor its flagship USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

I&B Minister of Bangladesh has inaugurated Bangabandhu Sambad Kendra at Kolkata Press Club

- The Information and Broadcasting minister of Bangladesh, Dr Hasan Mahmud has inaugurated Bangabandhu Sambad Kendra at the Kolkata Press Club.
- It was done on the occasion of the golden jubilee of the country's independence and the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in recognition of the significant contribution of the journalists of the Kolkata Press Club in the liberation war of Bangladesh. Five journalists were felicitated at the programme.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- Mahmud lauded the role of Indian journalists in his country's freedom struggle. The friendship would be further strengthened **through cultural exchange between the two countries.**
- On the recent happenings in Bangladesh, he claimed that it was a political ploy to create anarchy and to destroy the communal harmony of the country.

WMO's State of the Climate in Asia 2020: India Lost \$87 Billion in 2020 due to Disasters Linked to Climate Change

- According to the **State of the Climate in Asia 2020**, a first of its kind multi-agency report published by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, India has suffered an **average annual loss (AAL)** of around **87 billion USD** due to tropical cyclones, floods and droughts.
- China experienced the highest ALL of around **238 billion USD** followed by India and Japan (83 billion USD).
- The highest AAL was associated with drought.

State of the Climate in Asia 2020:

- The report provides an **overview of land and ocean temperatures, precipitation, glacier retreat, shrinking sea ice, sea-level rise and severe weather.**
- The report also examines **the socio-economic impacts in a year when the region is also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- The report covers every affected region of Asia, from the Himalayas to the Coastal areas, densely populated areas to deserts from the Arctic to the Arabian seas.

About World Meteorological Organization (WMO):

- WMO is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 193 Member States and Territories.
- Secretary-General– Petteri Taalas
- Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland

CAG, Auditor General of Maldives inked MoU to Strengthen Public Finance Audit

- **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)** and **Auditor General of Maldives** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the audit process of public finance.

Signatories:

- It was signed by Girish Chandra Murmu, CAG of India and Hussain Niyazy, Auditor General of Maldives in Male, capital of Maldives.
- Both nations will also work towards **Natural Resource Accounting (NRA)**, which provides an outline of resource bases, and embeds environmental aspects into the economic indices.
- **India**, a signatory to the **Environmental Accounting** efforts of the UN is committed to monitor **25 environment-related targets** with particular attention being paid to target no **15.9 related with Environmental-Economic Accounting.**
- Both institutions are the members of the **Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI)** and the **International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI).**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- CAG is already supporting the Auditor General of Maldives and its staff by providing relevant training through its **International Centre for Information Systems and Audit (iCISA)** and **International Training Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED)**.

Singapore to Launch Guidelines for Renewable Energy Certificates

- Singapore plans to launch standardized guidelines for **renewable energy certificates (REC)** in an effort to **decarbonise its power sector** and develop a regional grid.

Key points of guidelines:

- Supports **deployment of renewable energy in Singapore to develop regional grid** which taps different types of low carbon energy sources in the region.
- This is the first of its kind in **Southeast Asia** which defines the types of **renewable energy** sources such as **solar, wind and biomass that are eligible to generate RECs**.

Karnataka Bank gets Award for Innovative HR practices

- Karnataka Bank has been awarded for being the **'Top Organization with Innovative HR (Human Resource) Practices'** award at the **19th edition** of the Asian Pacific HRM Congress.

4 Indian Institutes made it to Times Higher Education's World Reputation Rankings 2021; IISc Bengaluru Among Top 100

- Indian institutes have made it to the **Times Higher Education (THE)'s World Reputation Rankings 2021**, the annual ranking of **THE that features the top 200 universities** based on the votes from leading academics across the globe. Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru ranked among the top 100(91-100) has topped the Indian Institutes.
- The other 3 Indian institutes are the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras**.
- Harvard University of the United States of America (USA) has topped the 2021 ranking followed by **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**, USA and University of Oxford from the United Kingdom (UK) has secured the 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.

India and Bangladesh reviewed the progress of Line of Credit projects

- The **19th India-Bangladesh Line of Credit (LOC)** review meeting was held in **Dhaka on 27-28 October**.
- The meeting reviewed progress of **43 projects being taken up for implementation under the Government of India Lines of Credit (LOCs) extended to Bangladesh**.
- The review meeting identified the existing issues with project implementation and their possible resolution mechanisms.
- Under the first LOC of USD 862 million, 12 out of 15 projects have already been completed and 3 projects are under execution. **Under the second LOC of USD 2 billion, 2 projects are already complete and the other projects are under various stages of implementation**.
- Under the third LOC of USD 4.5 billion, 1 project has reached execution stage, while the other projects are under various stages of DPP finalisation and tendering.

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- There is considerable improvement in the speed of projects reaching execution/tendering stage which has been made possible with active cooperation of the project-executing agencies of both sides.
- It was agreed that the **20th Bilateral LOC Review Meeting would be held in Delhi in April 2022.**

Revision Points

Country	Capital	Currency	Head
UAE	Abu Dhabi	Dirham	Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Taka	Abdul Hamid
Uruguay	Montevideo	Peso	Luis Lacalle Pou
Australia	Canberra	Dollar	Scott Morrison
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	Ringgit	Malaysia
Singapore	Singapore City	Dollar	Lee Hsien Loong
South Africa	Bloemfontein	Rand	Cyril Ramaphosa
Canada	Ottawa	Dollar	Justin Trudeau
Afghanistan	Kabul	Afghani	Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund
El Salvador	San Salvado	US Dollar	Nayib Bukele
Cuba	Havana	Peso	Miguel Díaz-Canel
Greece	Athens	Euro	Katerina Sakellaropoulou
Japan	Tokyo	Yen	Yoshihide Suga
Iceland	Reykjavik	Krona	Guðni Th. Jóhannesson
Austria	Austria	Euro	Alexander Van der Bellen
Nepal	Kathmandu	Rupee	Bidhya Devi Bhandari
USA	Washington D.C	Dollar	Joe Biden
UK	London	Pound Sterling	Boris Johnson
Myanmar	Nay Pyi Taw	Kyat	Min Aung Hlaing
France	Paris	Euro	Jean Castex
Finland	Helsinki	Euro	Sanna Marin
Thailand	Bangkok	Baht	Prayut Chan-o-cha
Vietnam	Hanoi	Dong	Pham Minh Chinh
Philippines	Manila	Peso	Rodrigo Duterte
Laos	Vientiane	kip	Phankham Viphavanh
Indonesia	Jakarta	Rupiah	Joko Widodo
Netherlands	Amsterdam	Euro	Mark Rutte

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Portugal	Lisbon	Euro	António Costa
Brunei	Bandar Seri Begawan	Dollar	Hassanal Bolkiah
Cambodia	Phnom Penh	Reil	Hun Sen
Bulgaria	Sofia	Lev	Stefan Yanev
Russia	Moscow	Ruble	Mikhail Mishustin
Spain	Madrid	Euro	Pedro Sánchez
Portugal	Lisbon	Euro	António Costa
Iran	Tehran	Rial	Ebrahim Raisi
Hungary	Budapest	Forint	János Áder
Somalia	Mogadishu	Shilling	Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo
Morocco	Rabat	Dirham	Aziz Akhannouch
Algeria	Algiers	Dollar	Abdelmadjid Tebboune
China	Beijing	Renminbi	Xi Jinping
South Korea	Seoul	Won	Moon Jae-in
Switzerland	Bern	Franc	Guy Parmelin
Ireland	Dublin	Euro	Micheál Martin
Oman	Muscat	Rial	Qaboos bin Said
Poland	Warsaw	Zloty	Mateusz Morawiecki
Germany	Berlin	Euro	Angela Merkel
Bhutan	Thimphu	Ngultrum	Frank-Walter Steinmeier
Denmark	Copenhagen	Krone	Mette Frederiksen
Yemen	Sanaa	Rial	Maeen Abdulmalik Saeed
New Zealand	Wellington	Dollar	Jacinda Ardern
Pakistan	Islamabad	Rupee	Imran Khan
Italy	Rome	Euro	Jacinda Ardern
Norway	Oslo	Krone	Erna Solberg
Colombia	Bogota	Peso	Iván Duque Márquez
Czech republic	Prague	Koruna	Andrej Babiš
Guinae	Conarky	Franc	Alpha Condé
Tunisia	Tunisi	Dinar	Kais Saied
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	Birr	Abiy Ahmed

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Important Appointments

National Appointments

Name of the Person	Designation	Predecessor/Others
Anurag Mehrotra	as vice-president international business and strategy-Tata motors	He is Former Managing Director of Ford India
S Damodharan	chief operating officer -Aurobindo Pharma	
P Yugandhar	chief executive officer of Eugia Pharma Specialities Ltd	
Padmaja Chunduru	MD & CEO of NSDL	MD and CEO of Indian Bank
BC Patnaik	MD of LIC	the secretary general, Council for Insurance Ombudsman (CIO)
Kangana Ranaut	Brand Ambassador of UP Govt 'One District-One Product' Scheme	
Ramesh Srinivasan	CEO of Netcore Cloud's India	Jun Zhang
Wendy Werner	India Country Head (Appointed by IFC)	
Rahul Mithal	CMD-RITES	Director (Projects and Services) at Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR).
CCI chief Ashok Kumar Gupta	Additional Charge as the Chairperson of NFRA	
Aveek Sarkar	Re-elected as the Chairman of PTI	
Ranveer Singh	Brand ambassador-Coinswitch	
Amit Khare	PM Modi's advisor	Former IAS officer

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Meera Mohanty	JS in PMO- Fasal Bima Yojana	
Ritesh Chauhan	CEO, PM Fasal Bima Yojana	
Pradeep Kumar Panja	Chairman of Karnataka Bank	
A K Goel	Chairman- Indian Banks' Association	
Navrang Saini	IBBI Chairperson	Whole Time Member, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)
Alexander Schallenberg	Austria's New Chancellor	
Sajjan Jindal	Chairman of World Steel Association	
Balasubramanian	Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds	
Sahdev Yadav	President-Indian Weightlifting Federation	former Secretary General of IWLF
Navnit Nakra	CEO and Head of the OnePlus India region	Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer
Barbados	first president ahead of becoming republic	
K Madhavan	re-elected as President of Indian Broadcasting & Digital Foundation	
Sunil Paliwal	Chairperson of Chennai Port Trust	
Sanjay Khanna	subsequent Director (Refineries) at BPCL	
Subhash Khuntia	Jana SFB- Part Time Chairman	
Rajiv Anand	Deputy Managing Director at Axis Bank	
K V Kamath	Chairperson of NaBFID	career at ICICI in 1971 and retired as managing director and CEO in April 2009
Invest India	President of WAIPA for 2021-23	
Shaktikanta Das	Reappointed as 25 th Governor of	For 3 years

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	Reserve Bank of India	
Subhash Kamath	Chairman, Advertising Standards Council of India	
Isha Ambani	Board of Trustees of Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art	For four years

International Appointments

Name of the Person	Designation	Predecessor/Others
Fumio Kishida	PM of Japan	Former Foreign Minister
Najla Bouden Romdhane	First Woman Prime Minister of Tunisia	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to implement programmes with the World Bank
Colonel Mamady Doumbouya	Interim President of Guinea	former member of the French Foreign Legion
Mohamed Béavogui	PM- Guinea	
Anita Anand	Canada's new Defence Minister	
Shavkat Mirziyoyev	President of Uzbekistan	

Resignation/Retirement

Name of the Person	Designation
Amrishi Jain	COO-Vodafone Idea
N Govindarajan	Aurobindo Pharma Managing Director
Amar Nagaram	Myntra CEO

President Ram Nath Kovind Approved Appointment of CJ of 8 High Courts & Transfer of 5 CJs

- Ram Nath Kovind, President of India, **has approved the appointment of the chief justices (CJ) to 8 high courts (HC) across India.**
- He has also **approved the transfer of 5 chief Justices to different high courts .**
- The appointments have been made in **the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India** in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
- The new appointments and transfers were recommended by the Supreme court of India.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Important Awards and Honours

Winner	Prize	Awarded By/Theme/Purpose
Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)	2021 Right Livelihood Award/ Sweden's alternative Nobel Prize	For empowering communities in areas ranging from child protection to environmental defence. (including Freda Huson, a Canadian indigenous rights campaigner, Marthe Wandou, a Cameroonian woman fighting sexual violence against girls, and Vladimir Sliviyak, a Russian environmental campaigner.
David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian	2021 Nobel Prize for Medicine (10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.15 million).	A wide range of disease conditions, including chronic pain.
Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)	Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Awards	
Abdulrazak Gurnah	Nobel prize - literature	Uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf
Benjamin List and David MacMillan	Nobel prize - Chemistry	Development of asymmetric organocatalysis
Journalists Maria Ressa of Philippines, Dmitry Muratov of Russia	Nobel Peace Prize	
James Sangma	Won 2021 PETA India Award	for 'Vegan Leather' Initiative
Satya Nadella	2021 C K Prahalad Award	for Global Business Sustainability Leadership

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Dr Tedros Adhanom	'WHO Director-General's award	Recognizing her world-changing legacy
Vidyut Mohan	2021 Earthshot Prize'	'Clean Our Air' Category
Rajinikanth	Dada Saheb Phalke award	
Tsitsi Dangarembga	2021 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade; Becomes 1st Black Woman to Win Award	

CII-SR launches CFO Excellence Awards:

- **The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Southern Region has launched the first edition of the CII CFO Excellence Awards at a virtual event.**
- **The annual awards are instituted with the objective of identifying and acknowledging Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) who have demonstrated outstanding capabilities and exemplary achievements in the finance function.**
- **The virtual event saw the launch of ciicfoawards.com portal to invite nominations from CFOs across the country for awards in 18 covering diverse sectors and themes.**
- **Women will have equal representation across all categories.**
- **The steering committee for the awards is chaired by Gopal Mahadevan, Whole-time Director and CFO, Ashok Leyland and includes CFOs B Ganesh Shenoy of MTR Foods, MP Vijay Kumar of Sify Technologies, Milind Kulkarni, of Tech Mahindra and Sachin Tayal, MD, Protiviti Member Firm for India.**
- **The steering committee with the technical partner for the awards, Protiviti Member Firm for India, has developed a simple assessment methodology to analyse and evaluate the achievements of the CFOs from across small, mid-Size and large firms across India.**
- **An eminent and senior panel of Jury members would be assessing the nominations to adjudge the winners across all categories.**

Tamil drama Koozhangal is India's official entry for Oscars 2022

- **Debutante filmmaker PS Vinohraj's 'Koozhangal' (Pebbles) has been selected as India's official entry to Oscars 2022 under the international feature film category.**
- **Shaji N Karun, the chairperson of the 15-member selection committee, announced the decision while Film Federation of India (FFI) Secretary-General Supran Sen confirmed that the decision was a unanimous one.**
- **The Academy Awards for 2021 will be held on March 27, 2022 in Los Angeles.**
- **In February 2021, Koozhangal was screened at the 50th International Film Festival of Rotterdam in Netherlands. The film was also awarded the prestigious Tiger Award at the film festival.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- 14 films were shortlisted for this year's India's official entry to the Oscars 2022. Assamese film 'Bridge' was among the 14 films.

Revision Points

Organization	Headquarters	Head/CEO/MD
World Health Organization	Geneva	Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
World Meteorological Organization	Geneva	David Grimes
United Nations	New york	António Guterres
United Children's Emergency Fund	New york	Tore Hattrem
Association of Southeast Asian Nations	Jakarta, Indonesia	Lim Jock Hoi
World Economic Forum	Cologny, Switzerland	Peter Brabeck-Letmathe
United Nations Development Programme	New York	Achim Steiner
United Nations Environment Programme	Nairobi, Kenya	Inger Andersen
Food and Agriculture Organization	Rome	Qu Dongyu
BLS International Services Ltd	New Delhi	Nikhil Gupta
New Development Bank	Shanghai	Marcos Prado Troyjo
National Health Authority	New Delhi	Vipul Aggarwal
Engineers India Ltd	New Delhi	Vartika Shukla
Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd	Mumbai	Anish Shah
Central Board of Direct Taxes	New Delhi	J B Mohapatra
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd	Visakhapatnam	Atul Bhatt
Poonawalla Fincorp	West Bengal	Adar Poonawalla
Equitas Small Finance Bank	Chennai	Vasudevan P N
Adani Transmission Limited	Ahmedabad	Anil Kumar Sardana
EXIM Bank of India	Mumbai	Harsha Bhupendra Bangari
Bharat Petro Resources Limited	Mumbai	S Ramesh
United India Insurance Company Limited	Chennai	S.L. Tripathy

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International Road Federation	Geneva	Satish Parekh
IDFC First Bank	Mumbai	V. Vaidyanathan
Income Tax Appellate Tribunal	Mumbai	G.S. Pannu
Assembly of Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions	Vienna	GC Murmu
National Fertilizers Ltd	Noida	Nirlep Singh Rai
National Restaurant Association of India	New Delhi	Kabir Suri
National Commission for Minorities	New Delhi	Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura
Vistara Airlines	Gurgaon	Vinod Kannan
National Small Industries Corporation	Delhi	Alka Nangia Arora
Fino Payments Bank	Mumbai	Rishi Gupta
National Rifle Association of India	New Delhi	Raninder Singh
Coromandel International	Secunderabad	Sameer Goel
International Atomic Energy Agency	Vienna	Rafael Mariano Grossi
Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India	Mumbai	Atul Chaturvedi
All India Management Association	New Delhi	C K Ranganathan
Press Trust of India	New Delhi	Aveek Sarkar
Adobe India	Noida	Prativa Mohapatra
Yahoo	California	Jim Lanzone
Life Insurance Corporation	Mumbai	BC Patnaik (One of the MDs)
International Criminal Court	Hague, The Netherlands	Judge Joan E. Donoghue
Sustainable Development Solutions Network	New York	Jeffrey Sachs
Confederation of Indian Industry	New Delhi	TV Narendran
Quality Council of India	New Delhi	Adil Zainulbhai;
Ordnance Factory Board	Kolkata	C S Vishwakarma
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	Beijing	Jin Liqun

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Important MOU's

Kerala Rail signs MoU with IISc for rail safety tech

- **IISc-incubated startup L2MRail**, Society for Innovation and Development (SID), and IISc have signed an MoU with **Kerala Rail** aimed at enhancing rail safety, especially in risk-prone terrains.
- The L2MRail team and IISc have pioneered the Fiber Bragg Grating (FBG) sensing technology for a structural health monitoring system (SHMS) for the civil engineering structures of Kerala Rail's Silverline project
- The MOU was exchanged between **Kerala Rail Managing Director V Ajith Kumar** and IISc Registrar Sudhir Warriar in the presence of Govindan Rangarajan, Director, IISc, and B Gurumoorthy, Chief Executive of SID, IISc.

Indian Bank inks MoU with NBFCs for priority sector lending:

- **Indian Bank** has announced that it has entered into a memorandum of understanding with three leading non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs) for co-originate loans to the priority sectors.
- The Chennai-based lender is partnering with **Indiabulls Housing Finance, Indiabulls Commercial Credit and IIFL Home Finance** on this co-lending arrangement.
- The arrangement entails joint contribution of credit at the facility level, by both lenders. **It also involves sharing of risks and rewards between the bank and the NBFC** for ensuring appropriate alignment of respective business objectives, as per the mutually decided agreement between the bank and the NBFC
- The bank expects to generate substantial business under the priority sector through co-Lending during the third quarter of the current fiscal

Unacademy signs MoU with Tripura Government

- **Edtech major Unacademy** has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Tripura Government** to help meritorious girl students from the State prepare for NDA exams.
- Unacademy infuses **\$20 million** in its group company Relevel
- As per the MoU, **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (Department of Education, Tripura)** and Unacademy will conduct two aptitude tests over the next 12 months to select 125 meritorious students in each exam and award them study scholarships on Unacademy for the NDA/Defence course.
- A total of **250 girl students** will receive the benefits of these scholarships, which is a one-year free Unacademy Plus subscription for Defence exams

STPI FinBlue, Chennai signed an MoU with ASEAN Financial Innovation Network Ltd (AFIN)

- STPI FinBlue, Chennai signed an MoU with **ASEAN Financial Innovation Network Ltd (AFIN)** to explore cross border collaboration.
- The signing of MoU with AFIN will strengthen the collaboration for leveraging the latter's expertise and knowledge to empower **start-ups incubated at STPI FinBlue, Chennai** to develop 'World Class Products'.
- **STPI FinBlue, Chennai**, is a domain specific facility for start-ups working in financial technology at Chennai. Setup by STPI, the CoE is having incubation centre along with SandBox and API Exchange access and provides the

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necessary support like training, mentoring, marketing, access to funding resources, IPR/ patenting assistance and other requisite support to the start-ups working in this domain.

- **Devesh Tyagi, Senior Director, STPI**, it is very apt for STPI to sign an MoU with AFIN so that both the leading FinTech technology countries can collaborate with each other and share the best practices across the border

Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corp signs agreement for BharatNet project implementation

- **Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Ltd (TANFINET)** has signed the **Master Service Agreement for the implementation of BharatNet Project in Tamil Nadu** with various system integrators.
- The project aims at providing **1 Gbps bandwidth connectivity to all Gram Panchayats**. It signed the agreement with L&T (for Package C); ITI Ltd (Package D) and Third-Party Agency BECIL in the presence of **Information Technology minister T Mano Thangaraj and IT Secretary Neeraj Mittal**.
- The project will cover Gram Panchayats through optical fibre cable with high-speed bandwidth connectivity. **TANFINET is a special purpose vehicle implementing the BharatNet project in Tamil Nadu at a total cost of ₹1,815 crore.**
- BharatNet enables to provide affordable but quality **“digital” services, e-education**, telemedicine and triple-play services to all Gram Panchayats.
- It also aims to provide high speed internet services to government offices, schools, colleges and business enterprises. By providing such services, the project augments the delivery of government services and generates employment in rural areas.

Bharti's OneWeb and Neom Tech of Saudi has signed a joint venture of \$200 million

- Bharti Group backed satellite company **OneWeb and Saudi Arabia's Neom Tech and Digital Holding Company** have signed a pact for a **\$200 million joint venture** to provide satellite-based services to Middle East and East African countries.
- The joint venture firm will see **the deployment of OneWeb's Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellation to provide connectivity to enable Neom's ecosystem** of cognitive technologies.
- Neom Tech and Digital Holding Company is the first holding company to be established as a subsidiary of Neom, a region in Saudi Arabia.
- Neom Tech and Digital Holding Company and OneWeb, **the only licensed operator in Saudi Arabia, expect to complete ground infrastructure in 2022.**
- The agreement also includes a **long-term strategic partnership regarding research and development of future connectivity systems.**

India successfully test-fires surface-to-surface ballistic missile Agni-5

- On Oct 27, 2021, **India** successfully test-fired a surface-to-surface ballistic missile, **Agni-5**, from **APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast**.
- Agni-5 is a **nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)**, which uses a **3-stage solid-fuelled engine**.
- It is capable of striking targets at ranges up to **5,000 km with a very high degree of accuracy**.

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- It is about **17-metre long, 2-metre wide** and has a launch **weight of around 50 tonnes**.
- The missile can carry a nuclear warhead of more than one tonne.
- At present India has in its armoury of Agni series, Agni-1 with 700 km range, Agni-2 with 2,000 km range, Agni-3 and Agni-4 with 2,500 km to more than 3500 km range.

Important Summit & Conference

PM Narendra Modi chairs 38th PRAGATI Meeting

- On Sep 29, 2021, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** chaired the **38th PRAGATI meeting**.

Aim :

- To address common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

Note :

- Previously, on August 25, the Prime Minister chaired the meeting of the 37th edition of PRAGATI.
- In the previous 37 PRAGATI meetings, 297 projects having a total cost of Rs. 14.39 lakh crore have been reviewed.

PM Modi inaugurates Azadi@75 – New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape Conference-cum-Expo in Lucknow

- On Oct 05, 2021, Prime Minister **Modi** inaugurated and visited '**Azadi@75- New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape**' Expo at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The **theme** of the event is New Urban India & the conference.
- The conference-cum-expo is being **organised** by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** from October 5 to 7 as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- All states/UTs will participate in the conference-cum-expo, which will help in experience sharing, commitment and direction for further action.

Key People :

- The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, and Governor of Uttar Pradesh Anandiben Patel were also present at the Conference-cum-Expo.

Key highlights of Conference :

- The exhibition highlights the achievements and the flagship urban development missions undertaken in the past 7 years of the Modi government.
- PM Modi digitally handed over keys of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) houses to 75,000 beneficiaries in 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh & he interacted with beneficiaries of the scheme in Uttar Pradesh, virtually.
- He inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 75 urban development projects of the state under Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT.
- He flagged off 75 buses under FAME-II for seven cities including Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Jhansi and Ghaziabad.

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- The Prime minister also released a coffee table book encompassing 75 projects implemented under various Flagship Missions of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- He announced the setting up of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chair in Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University in Lucknow.

Ministry of Tourism organizes Conference in Bodhgaya

- The **Ministry of Tourism** organized a **Conference** in **Bodhgaya** to promote the **potential of Buddhist tourism**.
- This conference was part of the Ministry of Tourism's Buddhist Circuit Train FAM Tour scheduled from 04th October - 08th October 2021.

Objective :

- To present the efforts and developments that have taken place in the Buddhist Circuit by the Government of India and to discuss and deliberate the way forward for the promotion of Buddhist Tourism in India.
- The FAM tour is from **Safdarjung Railway Station, Delhi** covering the visit of prominent Buddhist sites and conferences at **Bodhgaya** and **Varanasi** which was Flagged off by Minister of State for Tourism & Defence **Shri Ajay Bhatt**.
- The event was attended by around 125 delegates including tour operators, hoteliers, media and officials of the Ministry of Tourism & State Governments.
- Around 100 local tour operators and other stakeholders of the tourism & hospitality sector would be attending the event at Bodhgaya and Varanasi to discuss the key issues with regard to the development and promotion of tourism in the circuit.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal addresses ICRIER's 13th Annual International G-20 Conference

- Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** addressed the Inaugural Session of the **ICRIER's 13th Annual International G-20 Conference**.
- He called for pursuing a more inclusive and equitable agenda at the G20.
- He called upon the G20 to play a leadership role for People, Planet and Collective Prosperity.
- The G20 is the international forum that brings together the world's major economies. Its members account for more than 80% of world GDP, 75% of global trade and 60% of the population of the planet.

Focus :

- To enhance the knowledge content of policy making by undertaking analytical research that is targeted at informing India's policy makers and also at improving the interface with the global economy.

DRDO conducts All India Official Language, Scientific and Technical Seminar

- A premier laboratory of **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, **Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur**, organised **All India Official Language, Scientific and Technical Seminar on October 06-07, 2021**.
- It was hosted by ITR with the **theme 'Test and Evaluation of Defence Products: The Necessity and Achievements'**.
- The seminar was formally inaugurated by Member of Parliament and Chairman, Standing Committee on Defence **Shri Jual Oram**.

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Objective :

- To promote use of Hindi in official activities including scientific and technical works.
- Role of Missile Technology in Indian Defence Scenario, Role of Science and Technology in Nation Building, Hindi and us, Natural resources, Healing with Yoga and Effect of COVID-19 on mankind were covered during the seminar.
- In that seminar, stressed on preserving the cultural heritage through promoting use of regional languages.

16th Meeting of India-US Defence Policy Group Held in Washington

- The **16th meeting** of the **India-US Defence Policy Group (DPG)** was held in Washington.

Purpose :

- To review the progress on various defence cooperation issues between the India-US.
- The DPG meeting was co-chaired by Indian Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and US Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Colin Kahl.

About the Meeting :

- During the meeting, both sides shared regional security perspectives and agreed to cooperate “to work together to promote shared interests in the Indo-Pacific region.
- In that meeting, the two sides reviewed the progress in military-to-military engagements, implementation of foundational defence agreements, defence exercises, strengthening technology cooperation and defence trade.
- They also discussed opportunities for enhanced cooperation with like-minded partners to sustain a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The **third India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** was held in **New Delhi** in October 2020

PM Modi to address 28th NHRC foundation day programme

- On Oct 12, 2021, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **28th National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** foundation day programme through video conferencing in **New Delhi**.
- Union home minister **Amit Shah** and NHRC chairperson **Justice Arun Kumar Mishra** will also be present during the event.
- Narendra Modi emphasized that with measures like International Solar Alliance, renewable energy goals and Hydrogen Mission, India is rapidly moving in the direction of sustainable life and eco-friendly growth.

India, US to raise \$100 billion per year to fight climate change

- On Oct 14, 2021, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and her American counterpart, Treasury Secretary **Janet Yellen**, participated in the **8th U.S.-India Economic and Financial Partnership**.

Key People :

- Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das also attended virtually.
- The 8th U.S.-India Economic and Financial Partnership was organised on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the **International Monetary Fund** and the **World Bank** in Washington.

About the Meeting :

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- During the meeting, the two countries reaffirmed their commitment to **raise \$100 billion** annually for developing countries from public and private sector sources, to tackle climate change.
- The India-US Economic and Financial Partnership was launched in 2010 as a framework to cement economic bonds between the two countries and build a foundation for greater cooperation and economic growth in the future.

4th International Solar Alliance General Assembly starts

- The **fourth general assembly of The International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, is to be held virtually between October 18 to 21, 2021.
- It will be presided over by **Shri R.K. Singh**, Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy, Government of India and the President of the ISA Assembly.

The Fourth Assembly of the ISA will deliberate on the key initiatives :

1. Operationalisation of the OSOWOG (One Sun One World One Grid) initiative, the \$1-trillion Solar Investment Roadmap for 2030
 2. Approval for a Blended Financial Risk Mitigation Facility
 3. Strategic plan of the ISA for the next five years
 4. Country Partnership Framework
 5. Strategy for Private Sector Engagement
 6. Viability Gap Financing scheme to facilitate affordable finance for solar energy projects across ISA's membership
 7. Discuss partnership with Global Energy Alliance (GEA) to scale up technical and financial support to LDCs and SIDS
- The Assembly is the apex decision-making body of ISA, in which each member country is represented.

Aim :

- To build and scale-up inter-regional energy grids to share solar energy across borders, leverage the differences between time zones, seasons, pricing, and resources of different countries.

International Conference and Exhibition on Digital technologies - "Future Tech 2021"

- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has organised the **International Conference and Exhibition on Digital technologies - "Future Tech 2021"** is scheduled from **19 – 27 October 2021**.
- The event will revolve on **5 theme pillars: Strategy, Growth, Resilience, Inclusiveness, Trust**.
- The focus theme of the International conference is **"Driving technologies for building the future, we all can trust"**
- **Rajeev Chandrasekhar**, Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics & IT, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship virtually attended the inaugural session.
- The International conference would comprise interaction amongst entrepreneurs, industry leaders and Government officials.
- It shall provide a platform for discussion on application of digital technologies.

UIDAI to host 'Aadhaar Hackathon 2021'

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** is hosting a **Hackathon** titled **"Aadhaar Hackathon 2021"** for young innovators.

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- This is the **first ever Hackathon**, which will start from **28th October till 31st October**.
- Aadhaar Hackathon 2021 is themed around two topics: “**Enrolment and Update**” (which essentially covers some of the real-life challenges being faced by the residents while updating their address) & “**Identity and Authentication**” solution offered by UIDAI.
- To attend the Aadhaar Hackathon 2021 can fill the online registration form which is available here <https://hackathon.uidai.gov.in/>.

Objective :

- To popularize some of the existing and new APIs to solve the needs of residents.
- The winners of each theme would be rewarded by UIDAI through prize money and other lucrative benefits.

Rajnath Singh attends 2nd edition of Naval Commanders' Conference in New Delhi

- The **second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2021** commenced on **18 Oct 2021 at New Delhi**.
- Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** addressed the Naval Commanders during the inaugural session and interacted with them on matters pertaining to national security.
- The conference is attended by all Operational and Area Commanders of the Indian Navy.

Purpose :

- To review major operational, materiel, logistics, Human Resource Development, training, and administrative activities.

About the Conference :

- The conference serves as a platform for Naval Commanders to discuss important maritime matters at the military-strategic level as well as interact with Senior Government Officials through an institutionalised forum.
- It is an institutionalised platform to deliberate, direct, devise and decide issues of utmost importance, which will shape the future course of the Indian Navy.
- The Raksha Mantri also launched the ‘**Integrated Unmanned Road Map for Indian Navy**’.

Aim :

- To provide a comprehensive Unmanned Systems Roadmap in consonance with the Indian Navy's Concept of Operations and chart out a capability development plan for the Indian Navy.

Food Tech Summit 2021 organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries

- To **commemorate World Food Day (on 16th October 2021)**, the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries**, under the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme**, organised the **Food Tech Summit**.

Aim :

- To set the stage for all food-tech stakeholders to impart, discuss and acquaint micro enterprises on the new emerging trends in food processing and technological innovation.
- Minhaj Alam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries addressed the Food Tech Summit.

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- The summit witnessed the presence of eminent industry speakers sharing insightful pieces for micro enterprises and to pave a way in the food processing sector at the domestic and global level.

Aim :

- To enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and to promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.
- With an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25
- The scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

National Inter-Religious Conference held in Nagpur

- To celebrate the golden jubilee year of its Nagpur edition, **National Inter-Religious Conference organized by Lokmat Media Group in Nagpur.**
- Theme of the conference was **Global Challenges to Communal Harmony and Role of India'.**

Purpose :

- It is a forum for bringing together the views of different religions and sects.

Key People :

- Union Road Transport Minister **Nitin Gadkari** was speaking as the chief guest at a one-day National Inter-Religious Conference.
- Founder of Art of the Living, Guru Sri Sri Ravishankar, Swami Ramdev of Patanjali Yogpeeth, Acharya Lokesh Muni, Archbishop of Mumbai Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Haji Syed Salman Chishti, Bhikkhu Sanghasena and many other prominent religious leaders participated in this Conference.

Ministry Of Tourism Inaugurates two-day conference on 'Tourism in Buddhist Circuits – A way forward'

- On the occasion of inauguration of Kushinagar International Airport, Uttar Pradesh, **Ministry of Tourism** has organised a two days' conference titled "Tourism in Buddhist Circuit – A way forward" on 20th & 21st October 2021 at Kushinagar.
- The conference was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Tourism, Culture & DoNER **Shri. G. Kishan Reddy** presence of Union Minister for Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia; Minister of State for Culture Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal; Minister of State for Civil Aviation General (Retd.) V K Singh and Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi.
- The conference will highlight the Buddhist Circuit and Buddhist tourism.
- It highlighted the Buddhist circuit around Kushinagar, Sravasti, and Kapilvastu that is being developed as a part of the SWADESH Darshan scheme.
- Also, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kushinagar International Airport.

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FM Nirmala Sitharaman participates in 6th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB

- On Oct 26, 2021, Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** participated in the **6th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** via video conference from **New Delhi**.
- The 2021 Annual Meeting has been jointly organized by **AIIB and the Government of the United Arab Emirates**.
- The **theme** of the Annual Meeting of AIIB was “**Investing Today and Transforming Tomorrow**”.
- At the Annual Meeting, the Board of Governors meets to take key decisions on important matters relating to AIIB, and its future vision.
- The Finance Minister shared her thoughts in the Governor’s Roundtable Discussion on the theme “**COVID-19 Crisis and Post-COVID Support**”.

PM Modi to attend 18th ASEAN-India summit virtually

- On Oct 28, 2021, Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** attended the **18th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit** virtually.
- The Summit was held under the **Chairmanship of Sultan of Brunei**.
- The **latest edition** was the **ninth ASEAN-India Summit** attended by PM Modi.
- The year 2022 will mark 30 years of ASEAN-India relations and it will be celebrated as ‘**ASEAN-India Friendship Year**’.
- The Heads of State and Government of the ASEAN Countries will also attend the Summit.
- In **November 2020**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** had attended the **17th ASEAN-India Summit** virtually.

Key Points :

- To review the status of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership and progress made in key areas of Covid-19 & Health, Trade & Commerce, Connectivity, and Education & Culture.
- Important regional and international developments including post-pandemic economic recovery will also be discussed.

Note :

- ASEAN-India summits are held annually to engage at the highest level.
- ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership is aimed at sharing a strong foundation of shared historical, geographical, and civilizational ties.
- The first India-ASEAN Summit was convened in **Phnom Penh, Cambodia in November 2002** & the Prime Minister Atal Bihar Vajpayee had attended the First India-ASEAN Summit.

Recent News :

- On October 27, 2021, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** participated in the **16th East Asia Summit (EAS)** through video conference & it was hosted under the Chairmanship of Brunei.

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Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya addresses of CII Asia Health 2021 summit

- On Oct 28, 2021, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** addressed the inaugural session of **CII Asia Health 2021 summit**.
- The **theme** of the summit is '**Transforming Healthcare for a better tomorrow**'.
- The event was also attended by Dr. Vinod K Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, Dr. R.S. Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority along with the key officials of CII.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has organised the summit.
- The government has launched various schemes such as Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana (health insurance scheme), Ayushman Health and Wellness Centres, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) for generic medicines, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) and PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission etc to make healthcare accessible and affordable.

Important Defence News

Centre dissolves Ordnance actory Board transfers employees and assets to 7 PSUs

- The **defence ministry** has dissolved the **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)** and transferred its assets, employees and management to **seven public sector units (PSUs)**.
- The Government of India has decided to transfer the management, control, operations and maintenance of these 41 production units and identified non-production units to seven government companies (wholly owned by the government of India) with effect from October 1, 2021.
- The government has decided that all the employees of OFB (Group A, B & C) belonging to the production units and also the identified non-production units shall be transferred en masse to the new DPSUs on terms of foreign service without any deputation allowance (deemed deputation) initially for a period of two years.

Name of the seven defence PSUs :

- Munition India Limited, Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited, Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited, Troop Comforts Limited, Yantra India Limited, India Optel Limited and Gliders India Limited.
- Currently, the OFB is a defence ministry entity and supplies critical arms and ammunition to the three armed forces and the paramilitary.

Indian & Australian Navies signs 'Terms of Reference' to conduct Navy to Navy talks

- The Indian Navy signed the '**Terms of Reference**' (ToR) with the Royal Australian Navy to conduct Navy to Navy (N2N) talks under the framework of the '**Joint Guidance for the India – Australia Navy to Navy Relationship**' document signed by the Navies in August.
- Notably, this is the **1st time the Indian Navy has signed such an agreement with another country**.
- The **inaugural Navy-to-Navy Talk between India & Australia was held in 2005**.

Signatories:

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- The signing ceremony was held virtually between Rear Admiral Jaswinder Singh, ACNS (FCI), IN and Rear Admiral Christopher Smith, DCNS, RAN.

8th Edition of Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Exercise - Mitra Shakti'21

- The **eighth edition of India-Sri Lanka** bilateral joint Exercise **Mitra Shakti** will be conducted at **Combat Training School, Ampara in Sri Lanka** from October 4 to 15 , 2021.

Aim :

- To enhance inter-operability and sharing best practices in counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations between Armies of both countries and further strengthen the relationship between both the South Asian Nations.
- In the joint exercise, all arms contingent of **120 personnel** of the Indian Army will participate in the exercise along with a battalion of the Sri Lankan Army.
- The exercise will involve tactical level operations at the sub-unit level in an international Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorism environment and will go a long way in further strengthening the relationship between both the South Asian Nations and will act as a catalyst in bringing synergy and cooperation at the grass-root level between both Armies.

Note :

- The **7th Edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti** was held in **2019, at Foreign Training Node (FTN), Pune, Maharashtra.**

5th India-Japan Bilateral Maritime Exercise JIMEX-21 held from October 6

- The **5th edition of the Japan-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (JIMEX)** will be held in the **Arabian Sea** from October 06 to 08, 2021.
- The **Indian Navy** will be represented by the Indigenously built Guided Missile Stealth Destroyer Kochi and Guided Missile Frigate Teg, under the command of Rear Admiral Ajay Kochhar, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet.
- The Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force will be represented by JMSDF ships Kaga, an Izumo Class Helicopter Carrier and Murasame, a Guided Missile Destroyer, led by Rear Admiral Ikeuchizuru, Commander Escort Flotilla - 3 (CCF-3).
- P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft, Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, integral helicopters and MiG 29K fighter aircraft will also participate in the exercise.

Aim :

- To develop common understanding of operational procedures and enhance interoperability through conduct of a multitude of advanced exercises, across the entire spectrum of maritime operations. It will further enhance the cooperation and mutual confidence between the two navies.
- JIMEX, a series of maritime exercises that commenced in January 2012, is conducted by the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force.

Note :

- The **last edition of JIMEX** was conducted in **September 2020.**

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Indian Navy Sailing Championship 2021 to be conducted in Mumbai

- As a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration, the **Indian Navy Sailing Championship 2021** was conducted at **Indian Navy Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC), Mumbai** from October 1 to October 5.
- The Mumbai-headquartered Western Naval Command, the sword arm of the Indian Navy, has won the overall sailing championship hosted by the three-dimensional blue-water force.
- The Western Naval Command won the overall championship and Kochi-based Southern Naval Command was the runners-up.
- A total of 63 personnel from the three naval commands -- Western Naval Command, Eastern Naval Command and Southern Naval Command participated in the event.
- The championship was conducted in seven different classes of boats, namely, Laser (Standard), Laser (Radial), Laser Bahiya, Enterprise, Bic-Nova, 29er and J-24.

India, UK begin two-week military exercise Ajeya Warrior 2021 in Uttarakhand

- On Oct 07, 2021, The **6th Edition of India – UK Joint Company Level Military Training EXERCISE AJEYA WARRIOR** commenced at **Chaubatia, Uttarakhand** & will culminate on 20 Oct 2021.
- It is part of an initiative to develop interoperability and sharing of expertise with friendly foreign nations.
- During this exercise, an Infantry Company from the **Indian Army** and an equivalent strength from UK Army would be sharing their experiences gained during the conduct of various military operations in their respective countries and during overseas engagements.
- Both armies would familiarise with each other's weapons, equipment, tactics and procedures for carrying out joint military operations.
- The joint military training would culminate with a grueling 48 hours exercise to validate the performance of both the Armies in conducting joint military operations in a semi-urban environment.

Indian Navy's fast attack craft T-81 decommissioned

- On Oct 07, 2021, **Indian Naval Fast Attack Craft (IN FAC) T-81** of Super Dvora MK II class was **decommissioned** at **Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, Maharashtra** with Rear Admiral V Srinivas, Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area, as chief guest.
- It is the **25-metre long vessel**, with 60-ton displacement, was built at Goa Shipyard Limited in collaboration with M/s Ramta of Israel,
- It was commissioned into the Navy on June 5, 1999.
- The ship, specially designed for shallow waters, could achieve speeds of up to 45 knots.
- It had the capability of day and night surveillance and reconnaissance, search and rescue, beach insertion, extraction of marine commandos and high-speed interception of intruder craft.

Second phase of Malabar exercise 2021 organised in Bay of Bengal

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- The **second phase of Exercise Malabar 2021**, between the **Quadrilateral group** comprising **India, Australia, Japan** and the **U.S** will take place in the **Bay of Bengal** from October 12 to 15, 2021
- It is the **25th** edition of MALABAR.
- The **Indian Navy** will participate with **INS Ranvijay, INS Satpura, P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft and a Submarine.**
- Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF), Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and the United States Navy (USN) are the other participants in the exercise.
- The US Navy will be represented by the Aircraft Carrier USS Carl Vinson along with two destroyers, USS Lake Champlain and USS Stockdale.
- The JMSDF will be represented by JS Kaga and JS Murasame. Whilst, the Royal Australian Navy will be represented by HMAS Ballarat and HMAS Sirius.
- The second phase of the exercise would build upon the synergy, coordination and interoperability developed during the first phase.
- It would focus on advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, seamanship evolution, and weapon firings.

Note :

- First Phase of the exercise was conducted in the coast of Guam, in the Philippine Sea, in the Western Pacific from August 26 to 29, 2021.

Indian Navy hosts largest exercise Exercise MILAN

- **Indian Navy** hosts its largest naval train, **Ex Milan** in February 2022 for which **46 countries** have been invited.
- The exercise will see the participation of all **Quad countries (India, USA, Australia, Japan)** with the U.S. being invited for the first time.

PM Modi launches 7 new Defence PSUs

- On the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami (Oct 15, 2021), Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated to the nation **seven new defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs)**, created by incorporating the dissolved erstwhile **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)**.
- It was created after dissolving the over 200-year-old Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
- To enhance functional autonomy, efficiency and unleash new growth potential & innovation, the Government had decided to convert OFB from a Government Department into seven 100 percent Government-owned corporate entities as a measure to improve self-reliance in the defence preparedness of the country.

List of 7 new Defence PSUs :

1. Munition India Ltd,
2. Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd
3. Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd
4. Troop Comforts Ltd

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5. Yantra India Ltd
6. India Optel Ltd
7. Gliders India Ltd

- The new companies would play an important role in import substitution, in line with the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- All the seven companies will be producing parachutes, troop comfort items, weapons, vehicles, ammunition, opto-electronics gear and more for the use of the three services, State police as well as **Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)**.
- The assets of the OFB including its **41 ordnance factories and 9 ancillary bodies** were transferred to the seven new firms.
- There are around 70,000 employed in these factories who have now been sent to the seven new entities & there will be no change in the service condition of the employees.

17th Edition of Indo-US Joint Military Exercise Ex – Yudh Abhyas 2021 organised in USA

- The **17th edition of the Joint Military Training Exercise "Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021"** between the **Indian Army** and the **United States Army**, is scheduled to take place from **October 15 to 29, 2021 at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska in USA**.
- The Indian contingent will comprise 350 personnel of an Infantry Battalion Group.

Aim :

- To enhance understanding, cooperation and interoperability between two Armies.
- The joint exercise will focus on Combined Arms Manoeuvres in cold climatic conditions and is primarily sharing tactical level drills and learning best practices from each other.

Note :

- Exercise YudhAbhyas is the largest running joint military training and defence cooperation endeavor between India and USA.
- The previous version of the exercise was held at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Bikaner, Rajasthan in February 2021.

China, Russia conducts Joint Sea-2021 Naval Exercise in the Sea of Japan

- On Oct 14, 2021, **Russia and China's** navies kicked off at Russia's Peter the Great Gulf, joint naval maneuvers in the **Sea of Japan**.
- The exercise will run until **Oct. 17,2021**.
- It is the first time China has sent anti-submarine warfare planes and destroyers of **more than 10,000 tons** in displacement for exercises abroad.
- During that , the combined force would practice shooting at targets designed to imitate enemy surface ships and hold air-defence drills.

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- The warships participating from the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) are Type 055 destroyer Nanchang, Type 052D destroyer Kunming, Type 054A frigates Binzhou and Liuzhou, and Type 903A comprehensive supply ship Dongpinghu.

Indian Army team wins gold medal in the Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2021 in UK

- The **Indian Army** has been awarded the **gold medal** at the **2021 Cambrian Patrol Exercise**, held at **Brecon, Wales**, in the **United Kingdom** from October 13 to 15, 2021.
- The Indian Army was represented by a team from **4/5 Gorkha Rifles** (Frontier Force) which competed against a total of 96 teams which included 17 international teams representing Special Forces and prestigious Regiments from around the world.
- **General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith**, the Chief of General Staff of the British Army presented the Gold Medal to the team members.
- Ex Cambrian Patrol organised by the UK Army is considered the ultimate test of human endurance, team spirit and is sometimes referred to as the Olympics of Military Patrolling.

Indian Navy receives 11th P-8I anti-submarine aircraft from Boeing

- On Oct 18, 2021, The **Indian Navy** received the **11th anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I** from the US-based aerospace company **Boeing**.
- This is the third aircraft to be delivered under the option contract for four additional Boeing aircraft ordered by India.
- The aircraft has unmatched maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare capabilities.
- The P-8I has been deployed to assist during disaster relief and humanitarian missions.
- It is important for the Indian Navy, which has increased its presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) in light of the increasing Chinese dominance in the region.
- India's Defence Ministry had signed a contract for the procurement of eight Boeing P-8i aircraft in 2009.
- In 2016, a contract for an additional four P-8is was signed.

Note :

- The **first P-8i aircraft** was inducted into the **Indian Navy in 2013**.
- The ninth P-8i aircraft, the first of the four additional aircraft, was delivered to India in November 2020.
- The 10th P-8i aircraft was delivered to the Indian Navy in July 2021.

DRDO Successfully flight-tests High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target 'ABHYAS' in Odisha

- On Oct 22, 2021, The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully tested the **High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)- ABHYAS**, from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)**, Chandipur off the coast of **Bay of Bengal** in Odisha.
- ABHYAS is designed and developed by DRDO's **Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)**, Bengaluru.

India's first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant starts 2nd phase of sea trials

- On Oct 24, 2021, The **first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC)** of India, **Vikrant** began its **second phase of sea trials**.
- It is scheduled for induction into the Indian Navy by August 2022.

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- The warship has been built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited(CSL)**.
- The Indian Navy significantly has been focusing on bolstering its overall capabilities in view of China's growing efforts to increase its military presence in the Indian Ocean Region.

Note :

- India currently has **only one aircraft carrier- INS Vikramaditya**.

India, UK Take Part In Tri-Service exercise Konkan Shakti 2021

- The sea phase of the maiden bilateral tri-service exercise '**Konkan Shakti 2021**' between the **UK and Indian Armed Forces** commenced off the **Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea from October 24 to 27, 2021**.
- The **harbour phase** is planned at **Mumbai** from **21 – 23 Oct 2021**.
- All participating units were split into two opposing forces with the aim of achieving 'sea control' to land Army ground-troops at a pre-designated site.
- The exercise focused on multiple areas including enhancing aspects of interoperability and exchange of best practices.
- One force was led by the Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet and comprised the flagship INS Chennai, other warships of the Indian Navy and HMS Richmond, the Royal Navy's Type 23 frigate.
- The other force operated under the UK Carrier Strike Group comprising aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, other UK and Netherland naval ships, and Indian warships.

Representatives :

- Royal Navy (RN) will be represented by its aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, with her integral F35 fighter aircraft and helicopters, the Type 45 Daring Class air-defence destroyer HMS Defender, the Type 23 frigate HMS Richmond, a Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) Fort Victoria, and a Royal Netherland Navy Frigate HNLMS Evertsen
- The Indian Navy (IN) would be represented by three of its indigenously built stealth guided missile destroyers INS Kolkata, INS Kochi and INS Chennai, two stealth frigates, INS Talwar and INS Teg, and the tanker INS Aditya.
- The IN will also be participating with integral Sea King 42B, Kamov-31 and Chetak helicopters, MIG 29K fighter aircraft, Dornier and P8i (maritime patrol aircraft) and a submarine.
- The exercise will also see participation by IAF aircraft that include Jaguars, SU-30 MKI fighters, AWACS, AEW&C and Flight Refueling Aircraft.
- The joint phase of the exercise would also include air-tactical operations involving F35Bs, MiG 29Ks and Indian Air Force elements.

Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Sarthak' commissioned in Goa

- On Oct 28, 2021, the indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship **Sarthak** was dedicated to the nation.
- The indigenously built ship was commissioned by the **Director General of Indian Coast Guard, K Natarajan, at Goa**.

Purpose :

- To boost the maritime safety and security of the nation.

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- The 105-meter-long ship displacing 2,450 tons is propelled by two 9,100 kilowatt diesel engines designed to attain a maximum speed of 26 knots.
- ICGS Sarthak will be based at Porbandar in Gujarat & it is commanded by Deputy Inspector General MM Syed.
- Indian Coast Guard is a pioneer in inducting indigenous platforms and ICGS Sarthak is a glowing example of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt flags off NIMAS multidimensional adventure sports

- On Oct 27, 2021, Raksha Rajya Mantri **Shri Ajay Bhatt** flagged off upcoming **National Institute of Mountaineering & Allied Sports (NIMAS)** multidimensional adventure sports expedition to Europe, in **New Delhi**.
- The NIMAS will be conducting this expedition in the general area Chamonix, France in November 2021, which is considered the adventure capital of Europe.
- Expedition will be led by NIMAS Director **Col Sarfraz Singh**.
- The locations of the expedition are (i) Alps Mountains; (ii) Chamonix; (iii) Normandy and (iv) English Channel.

Aim :

- To commemorate 75 years of Independence with an overall aim to promote adventure sports in the country by conducting India's first multidimensional adventure sports expedition in the fields of land, aero and aqua.

DRDO & IAF successfully flight-test indigenously developed long-range bomb

- On Oct 29, 2021, The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** jointly flight-tested an indigenously developed **Long Range Bomb (LRB)** in Odisha.
- The **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)**, a DRDO laboratory located at Hyderabad in coordination with other **DRDO laboratories** has designed and developed the Long-Range Bomb (LRB).
- The LRB is guided to a land-based target at a long range with accuracy within specified limits.
- The LR Bomb, with a range of 100 kilometres, was fired from the IAF fighter aircraft flying at an altitude of 10 kilometres.
- The flight of the bomb and the performance were monitored by a number of range sensors, including electro optical tracking system (EOTS), telemetry and radar.

Recent News :

- On October 27, 2021, **DRDO** successfully developed and test-fired the surface-to-surface ballistic missile **Agni-5** & it is capable of neutralizing a target at a range upto **5,000 km with a high level of accuracy**.

Important Science & Technology News

NASA launches Landsat 9 satellite from California

- On Sep 27, 2021, The US space agency **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** successfully launched **Landsat 9** from the **foggy Vandenberg Space Force Base** in California.
- Landsat 9 is a **joint NASA and US Geological Survey (USGS)** mission.
- The satellite was carried by a **United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket** from Vandenberg's Space Launch Complex 3E.

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- Northrop Grumman in Gilbert, Arizona, built the Landsat 9 spacecraft.
- Landsat 9 will provide data and imagery to help make science-based decisions on key issues including water use, wildfire impacts, coral reef degradation, glacier and ice-shelf retreat, and tropical deforestation.
- The first Landsat satellite launched in **1972**.

US' Earth-monitoring satellite 'Landsat 9' launched from California

- The United States (US) satellite, Landsat 9, was launched through **the United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket that lifted off from the foggy Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, US.**
- It will monitor **the Earth's land surface by taking the orbital track of Landsat 7, which** will be decommissioned.
- It is a **project of NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and the US Geological Survey (USGS).**

ISRO's NSIL announces its first demand-driven communication satellite

- The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) commercial arm, **New Space India Limited (NSIL) announced its first 'demand-driven' communication satellite mission as part of Space reforms announced by the government in June 2020.**
- As part of this initiative, **NSIL is undertaking its 1st demand driven communication satellite mission named GSAT-24, a four-tonne class Ku- band satellite.**
- The entire satellite will be leased to Tata Sky for meeting their DTH application needs

AirAsia Claims To Be First Airbus Operator To Start Taxibot Services

- Budget carrier **AirAsia India** has become the **first Airbus operator** in the world to start Taxibot services with passengers on board.
- The airline has tied up with **KSU Aviation**, the exclusive operator of the TaxiBot in India.
- AirAsia India announced the implementation of an Alternate Taxiing Solution, TaxiBot.
- Delhi Airport is the first in the world to Introduce Taxibot - an operationally efficient and environment-friendly advanced taxiing solution - in 2019.

Russia test-fires Zircon hypersonic missile from nuclear submarine

- On Oct 04, 2021, For the first time, The **Russian Defense Ministry** announced that **Russia** successfully test-launched a **Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missile** from the **Severodvinsk nuclear submarine.**
- It first test-fired Zircon from the surface, and then launched another missile from a submerged position in the White Sea.
- The missile will be **commissioned** by the Russian navy in **2022.**
- It performed two launches of the Zircon cruise missile at mock targets in the **Barents Sea.**
- The Zircon missile is capable of flying 9 times the speed of sound and hit targets successfully upto a range of 1,000 kms (620 miles).

Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched Heli-borne survey technology for groundwater management

- On Oct 05, 2021, Union minister of state **Jitendra Singh** launched **Heli-borne survey technology for groundwater management.**

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Aim of survey technology :

- Mapping potential groundwater sources and its management for providing safe drinking water to millions of people living in the water scarce arid regions of our country.
- Arid and semi-arid regions of **Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab** and **Haryana** states and signed a Memorandum of Agreement with CSIR-NGRI for executing a very important project High Resolution Aquifer Mapping & Management.
- This is a mega project of **Rs. 150 crores** to be implemented in two phases in collaboration with the Ministry of Jal Shakti as a part of National Aquifer Mapping Project.

Electronic Pension Payment Order gets integrated with Digi Locker

- The **Department of Ex-servicemen welfare, Ministry of Defence** has integrated the **Electronic Pension Payment Order (EPPO)** with Digi Locker.
- It was generated by **Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (PCDA) Pension, Allahabad** in order to **enhance 'Ease of Living'** of Defence Pensioners.
- This will enable all Defence Pensioners to obtain instantly a copy of the latest copy of the PPO from Digi Locker.
- This initiative will create a permanent record of PPO in DigiLocker and at the same time eliminate delays in reaching the PPO.
- According to the PCDA(Pension), Allahabad has been registered as a Service Provider for providing EPPOs of over 23 lakhs Defence Pensioners through DigiLocker platform

Indian scientists develops biodegradable polymer

- A team of Indian scientists has developed an **environment-friendly, non-toxic and biodegradable polymer** using **guar gum** and **chitosan**.
- Guar gum and chitosan are polysaccharides extracted from **guar beans** and **shells of crab and shrimps**.
- The fabricated guar gum-chitosan film having **high water stability, high mechanical strength** and excellent resistance to harsh environmental conditions can potentially be used in packaging applications.
- The fabricated cross-linked film did not dissolve in water even after 240 hours.
- The mechanical strength of cross-linked guar gum-chitosan composite film was found to be higher compared to general biopolymer.
- It is highly water repellent or hydrophobic due to its high contact angle of 92.8°.
- It has also low water vapor permeability when compared with the film made only from chitosan

Starscapes launches second astronomical observatory in Bhimtal, Uttarakhand

- On Oct 06, 2021, India's first and only chain of observatories, **Starscapes Experiences Pvt Ltd**, launched its second public observatory **Stargate Observatory Bhimtal** in **Uttarakhand**.
- It will offer tourists a holistic astronomical experience, with a number of activities both during the day and at night.(includes from sun observations to audio visual show of the night sky, and, stargazing safari to astrophotography)
- It will offer an integrated astronomy experience to travel enthusiasts.

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- The observatory has an in-house store that offers merchandise related to astronomy.

First Malaria Vaccine: Mosquirix

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) **endorsed the world's first Malaria Vaccine in an effort to curb the spread of the parasitic disease.**
- Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- It is preventable and curable.
- **RTS, S/AS01, trade name Mosquirix**, is an injectable vaccine targeting P. falciparum, the most prevalent malaria strain in Africa.
- It is the **first and only vaccine to show partial protection** in young children.
- It was developed by **British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline in 1987.**
- **In 2019, India had an estimated 5.6 million cases of malaria compared to about 20 million cases in 2020, according to WHO.**

HAL Delivers Heaviest Semi-Cryogenic Propellant Tank to ISRO

- On Oct 07, 2021, The **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** delivered the heaviest **semi-cryogenic propellant tank (SC120- LOX)** ever fabricated to the **Indian Space Research Organization (Isro).**
- The semi-cryo-liquid oxygen (LOX) tank, the first developmental welded hardware, is a part of the SC120 stage intended for payload enhancement by replacing the L110 stage in the existing Mk-III launch vehicle.
- The propellant tank was handed over by MK Mishra, General Manager, Aerospace Division, HAL, to TKB Kumaresh Babu, General Manager (LHWC), Head of the resident team of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), ISRO, in the presence of P Srinivasa Rao, Group Director (SR)-LPSC, at a function held in HAL.
- Till date, the HAL's Aerospace Division has delivered **244 propellant tanks** and **95 water tanks** to Isro for the space programmes of PSLV, GSLV Mk-II and GSLV Mk-III.
- In 2020, HAL delivered the biggest ever cryogenic Liquid Hydrogen tank (C32-LH2) which is four meters in diameter and eight meters in length.

ITCA Bengaluru launches 75 Students' Satellites Consortium

- **Indian Technology Congress Association in Bengaluru** focuses on **constructing synergies** between **academia, trade and analysis organisations.**
- It has initiated a formidable programme to commemorate the 75 years of Indian Independence & it has launched 75 Students' Satellites Consortium: Mission 2022.
- Under the mission, a consortium of 75 college students will construct satellites to be launched by ISRO.
- The ITCA has collaborated with varied organisations comparable to TMISAT of Israel, CSPD Serbia and UNISEC of Japan to design and launch the student-built satellite tv for pc by 2022 when India completes its 75 years of Independence.

Indian-American astronaut Raja Chari to command Crew-3 mission of NASA-SpaceX

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- **An Indian-American astronaut is part of NASA-SpaceX's third mission to the International Space Station (ISS).**
- The mission is set to be start on October 30th from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA.
- Bharti Group-backed OneWeb Launched 36 Satellites from Vostochny Cosmodrome, Russia
- OneWeb, the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications company owned by the UK Government and Bharti Global has launched 36 satellites by Arianespace from the Vostochny Cosmodrome, Russia.
- With this successful launch and contact with the 36 satellites, the total number of in-orbit constellations of OneWeb has become 358 satellites, more than half of its entire 648 LEO satellite fleet, which will deliver high-speed, low-latency global connectivity.
- OneWeb is now over halfway to deliver global service in 2022.

About the launch:

- **The satellites were separated from the rocket in 9 batches over a period of 3 hours 52 minutes.**
- The signal acquisition on all 36 satellites is also confirmed.

Note:

- With this launch, OneWeb will start its service demonstrations which will showcase the hardware and capabilities across an array of applications.

OneWeb partnership with Galaxy Broadband

- **OneWeb has partnered with Galaxy Broadband, a Canadian distribution partner, to deliver OneWeb's high-speed, low-latency communications services across Canada and the wider Arctic Region.**

About OneWeb:

- Chairman– Sunil Bharti Mittal
- CEO– Neil Masterson
- Headquarters– London, United Kingdom (UK)

Demo centres:

- OneWeb has opened demo centres at its headquarters in London, and at the Westcott Venture Park Innovation Centre in Buckinghamshire as well as in the United States of America (USA), in Talkeetna, Alaska, and Germantown, Maryland.

China Launched 1st Solar Exploration Satellite

- **China has successfully launched its 1st solar exploration satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province aboard a Long March-2D rocket.**
- **The Satellite has entered its planned orbit**
- **10 small satellites, an orbital atmospheric density detection experimental satellite, and a commercial meteorological detection constellation experimental satellite were also sent into space with the use of the same Long March-2D rocket.**

China launches historic Shenzhou-13 crewed mission

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- On Oct 16, 2021, **China** launched **Shenzhou-13 crewed mission**, the country's first long-duration stay aboard, carrying **three astronauts - two men and one woman**.
- The Shenzhou-13 crewed spaceship launched by a **Long March 2F rocket** from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the Gobi Desert**, located in **Inner Mongolia**.
- Shenzhou-13 is the 5th mission to the structure and it means '**Divine Vessel**'.
- The three-person crew are expected to spend six-months in space, to set up a new record for the time spent in space by Chinese astronauts.
- The members of the crew includes **Zhai Zhigang, Wang Yaping and Ye Guanfu**.
- China also landed its **Tianwen-1 space probe** on Mars, whose accompanying **Zhurong rover** has been exploring for evidence of life on the red planet.
- China has launched seven crewed missions with a total of 14 astronauts aboard two have flown twice since 2003.

Note :

- **China** became only the **third country after the former Soviet Union and the United States** to put a person in space on its own.

NASA launches Lucy spacecraft to study the Jupiter Trojan asteroids

- **NASA** has launched a first-of-its kind mission called '**Lucy Mission**' to study **Jupiter's Trojan asteroids**.
- The Lucy probe was launched on a **United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket** from **Space Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida**.
- Over the next 12 years, Lucy will fly by one main-belt asteroid and seven Trojan asteroids.
- It's NASA's first-ever single-spacecraft mission to explore so many different asteroids
- Jupiter's Trojan asteroids – two large clusters of rocks that are believed to be remnants of primordial material that formed the solar system's outer planets.

Hubble finds evidence of persistent water vapour in Jupiter's moon 'Europa'

- **NASA's Hubble Space Telescope observations** of Jupiter's icy moon Europa have revealed the presence of persistent water vapor in '**Europa**', the icy moon of Jupiter.
- The water vapor was **only present in one hemisphere**.
- It may further help to explore whether Europa's atmosphere could support life.
- However, the new results show similar amounts of water vapor spread over a larger area of Europa in Hubble observations spanning from 1999 to 2015.

IIT Kanpur team identifies a novel target to treat prostate cancer

- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur**, have discovered that a particular gene (**DLX1**) has an important role to play in the growth and development of **prostate cancer**.
- The team of researchers led by Dr. **Bushra Ateeq**, Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering.
- **DLX1** gene plays an important role in the development of jaws, skeleton, and interneurons in the brain.

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- DLX1 protein has been used as a urine-based biomarker as it is found at elevated levels in prostate cancer patients.
- Androgen receptor is responsible for promoting the development of prostate cancer.
- The team also found that Bromodomain and extra terminal (BET) protein assists the function of both androgen receptor and ERG.
- Using small molecules as inhibitors, the researchers have shown in mice a new therapeutic strategy to treat people with DLX1-positive prostate cancer.

Poaching leads to more elephants being born tuskless: Research

- New research indicates **poaching** has led to more **elephants being born tuskless**.
- During the **Mozambican civil war**, **90% of elephants in Gorongosa National Park were killed** for their ivory.
- When the population recovered after the conflict, a larger proportion of female elephants were born tuskless.
- The scientists say most of those who survived the poaching carried a **rare genetic mutation that stops tusks from growing, and passed the trait** on to their offspring.
- The scientists say the spread of the mutation shows how human interference can have an impact even on animal anatomy.

China launches Shijian-21 satellite

- On Oct 24, 2021, **China** successfully launched a new satellite from the **Xichang Satellite Launch Center** in **Southwest China's Sichuan province**.
- The satellite was developed by the **Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology** & it was launched by a Long March-3B carrier rocket.
- This launch marked the 393rd mission for the Long March series carrier rockets.

Purpose :

- To test and verify space debris mitigation technologies.

Tata Power to Collaborate with IIT Delhi in Clean Energy Space

- **Tata Power** has inked a pact with **IIT-Delhi** to work together on **clean energy and other projects** that can be transformed from research and development level to pilot stage.
- One of India's largest private sector integrated utilities, Tata Power and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in areas such as smart grid technology, clean energy solutions.
- Both the institutions are scaling in areas such as EV infrastructure, artificial intelligence, machine learning, hydrogen technologies, battery energy storage systems, monitoring and sensing solutions, microgrids et al.
- Tata Power and IIT-D have also agreed to explore a possibility to develop Tata Power Virtual Center of Excellence towards complementing and supplementing various technologies, labs and infrastructure already ingrained at each other's facilities.

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- Under this MoU, both the parties also wish to explore the synergies through cooperation with Clean Energy International Incubation Centre (CEIIC) and IIT Delhi's Startup infrastructure for incubation and development of startups.

US conducts successful test of hypersonic missile technology

- The **United States** successfully conducted a **test of hypersonic missile technology**.
- The test was conducted at a **NASA facility in Wallops, Virginia**.
- A brand new weapons system which is already being deployed by China and Russia.
- Hypersonic weapons travel in the upper atmosphere at more than five times the speed of sound, or about 3,853 miles per hour (6,200 kph).
- Sandia National Laboratories ran the tests from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia which will help "inform the development of the Navy's Conventional Prompt Strike (CPS) and the Army's Long Range Hypersonic Weapon (LRHW) offensive hypersonic strike
- Companies such as Lockheed Martin (LMT.N) and Raytheon Technologies (RTX.N) are working to develop the hypersonic weapon capability for the United States.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launches World's First Instant Advice CUNSLT App

- On Oct 25, 2021, Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** launched **World's First Instant Advice App CUNSLT knowledge App and platform**.
- The app has been prepared by **former IAS Raghav Chandra**.

Key People :

- CEO Niti Aayog Amitabh Kant and Former Secretary Raghav Chandra, Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra also Presented the event.

About CUNSLT App :

- CUNSLT app is the first such global facility by which people who **need information, advice, counsel, guidance** can contact and call up experts in multiple sectors on-the-go.
- Each expert also gets a unique, exclusive page reflecting their contributions by way of articles and video-blogs and this serves as their intellectual legacy and helps to promote interest in them.
- CUNSLT uses the framework of context and convergence to instantly connect knowledge seekers and knowledge givers
- The app will be a forum for mentors to share their life experiences & it will allow people to learn from the wisdom which has been acquired over the lifetime.
- Through this app, people will get information on **65 subjects related to agriculture, economic information, women empowerment, social science, sports, health, literature, insurance, army, security, energy, environment, food, human resources, Indian history, railways, mobile** .

Important Reports & Index

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

UNESCO launches 2021 State of the Education Report for India

- On the occasion of **World Teacher's Day, (Oct 05)** the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** launched its 2021 **State of the Education Report (SOER) for India: "No Teacher, No Class"**.
- This publication is the annual flagship report of UNESCO New Delhi and it is based on extensive research.
- The report aims to serve as a reference for enhancing the implementation of the NEP and towards the realization of the SDG.4 target 4c on teachers.
- The report also looks at teachers' experience of ICT and the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the teaching profession.
- It concludes with a set of ten action-oriented recommendations to address the challenges facing the teaching profession in India, and thus help achieve the NEP 2020 vision and objective – "Ensuring quality education for all in the country".

The ten recommendations are:

- Improve the terms of employment of teachers in both public and private schools
- Increase the number of teachers and improve working conditions in North Eastern states, rural areas and 'aspirational districts'
- Recognize teachers as frontline workers
- Increase the number of physical education, music, art, vocational education, early childhood and special education teachers.
- Value the professional autonomy of teachers
- Build teachers' career pathways
- Restructure pre-service professional development and strengthen curricular and pedagogical reform
- Support communities of practice
- Provide teachers with meaningful ICT training
- Develop teaching governance through consultative processes, based on mutual accountability
- The substance of the Report has been developed by an expert team of researchers in the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, under the guidance of the UNESCO Office in New Delhi.
- **High proportion of female teachers:** Chandigarh, Delhi, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu
- **Low proportion of female teachers:** Tripura, Assam, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Bihar.

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) released by UNDP & OPHI; India has max multidimensional poor

- A new analysis on global multidimensional poverty namely '**Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**' 2021 was released which is produced by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)**.
- India has a maximum number of people, 381 million, living in multidimensional poverty.
- **5 out of 6 multidimensional poor people are from lower tribes or castes.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The Scheduled Tribe (ST) accounts for **9.4% of the population and is the poorest with 65 million of the 129 million people living in multidimensional poverty.**
- They account for about one-sixth of all people living in multidimensional poverty in India.

European drone developer FIXAR ties up with Paras Aerospace

- On Oct 19, 2021, **European commercial drone and software developer FIXAR** tied up with **Paras Aerospace**, a subsidiary of Paras Defence.
- It has emerged for the **initiation of the Drone (UAV)** market in India.
- Under the collaboration, Paras will support operations set-up, business development, and technical support for providing this future-ready technology .
- The initial agreement targets delivery of **150 drones** to the operators in India in the next 6-8 months.
- These drones have applications in areas such as real-time video surveillance, laser scanning and aerial photography for various sectors including government, agriculture, security, surveying, among others
- The FIXAR007 drone has demonstrated an increased flight length (up to 60km), a payload capacity of 2kg/4.4lb max, and increased stability compared to similar class drones.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches Air Quality Early Warning System

- The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune** has developed a new '**Decision Support System**' (DSS) and enhanced the existing '**Air Quality Early Warning System**' (AQEWS) for Delhi-NCR.
- It was launched by **Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences**, as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week organised by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The need was stated by the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM).

The website is designed to deliver quantitative information about:

1. The contribution of emissions from Delhi and the surrounding 19 districts to the air quality in Delhi,
 2. The contribution of emissions from 8 different sectors in Delhi their contribution,
 3. The contribution from biomass-burning activities in the neighbouring states to the degradation of air quality in Delhi,
 4. The possible quantitative effects of interventions at the forecast air-quality event in Delhi. All this information would assist in managing the air quality in a timely manner.
- The institute has also developed a dedicated website for DSS, <https://ews.tropmet.res.in/dss/>, to deliver quantitative information about the contribution of emissions from Delhi and surrounding districts to the air quality.

South Korea launches its first homegrown space rocket

- **South Korea** has launched its first homegrown rocket in space.
- **The Korean Satellite Launch Vehicle II, known as Nuri**, took off from **Goheung, about 500km south of Seoul.**
- The vehicle completed its full flight sequence but failed in its goal of putting a dummy satellite in orbit.

Addl.Info:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- South Korea is locked in an arms race with North Korea, with both recently test-firing new weapons. The North put a satellite in orbit in 2012.
- South Korea plans to carry out four more launches of the Nuri until 2027 according to the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) that is overseeing the launch.
- Previous attempts by Seoul to launch a rocket in 2009 and 2010 failed, with the second exploding minutes after take-off.
- South Korea is aiming to send a probe to the moon by 2030.

MeitY to organise “AI Pe Charcha” on “AI for Data Driven Governance” theme

- On Oct 28, 2021, The National e Governance Division (NeGD) of the Ministry of Electronics and IT is organising yet another AI Pe Charcha (AI Dialogue).
- **Theme** : AI for Data Driven Governance

Aim :

- Covering the importance of data driven and AI-enabled governance along with the global best practices.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare addresses National Conference on ‘International Year of Fruits and Vegetables’

- On Oct 29, 2021, Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar** addressed a **National Conference on “International Year of Fruits and Vegetables”**.
- The Conference was organized by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare** in collaboration with the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**.
- It was organized as part of the celebration of the “International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, 2021” declared by the United Nations Organization.
- The **theme** for International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021 is “**Awareness about the nutritional benefits of fruits and vegetables for balanced and healthy diet and lifestyle.**”

About the Conference :

- The conference is a unique opportunity to raise awareness about the important role of fruits and vegetables in human nutrition, health, food security and also in achieving Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.
- To promote Globally popular Exotic and important Indigenous fruit crops in the country

PM Modi Reconstituted the 7 Member EAC to PM for 2 years; Bibek Debroy retained as head

- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved to reconstitute the **7-member Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** following the end of its tenure in September 2021.
- The EAC-PM has been reconstituted for **a period of two years or until further orders**.
- Noted economist and **NITI Aayog member Bibek Debroy** who has been serving as the chairman of EAC-PM since 2017 will continue as the Chairman of the reconstituted EAC-PM.

Part-Time members:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- PM Modi has inducted 3 new part-time members for a period of 2 years, they are, Rakesh Mohan, former deputy governor of Reserve Bank of India, **T.T Ram Mohan, Professor of IIM Ahmedabad Poonam Gupta, Director-General of National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).**
- **Other part-time members:** Sajid Chenoy, J.P. Morgan's Chief India Economist Neelkanth Mishra co-head of Asia Pacific Strategy and India Strategist for Credit Suisse.
- Nilesh Shah, Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co. Ltd

Note:

- The part-time members of EAC-PM may be paid Rs.10000 per day of sitting.

Important Environment News

Newly discovered species of gecko named after Jackie Chan

- Researchers from the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS); Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Indian Institute of Science;** and the **National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru,** have discovered **12 new species of geckos** from the **Western Ghats** named after Jackie Chan.

12 new species of geckos :

1. *Cnemaspis balerion;*
 2. *Cnemaspis lithophilis;*
 3. *Cnemaspis rubraoculus;*
 4. *Cnemaspis nimbus;*
 5. *Cnemaspis wallaceii;*
 6. *Cnemaspis smaug;*
 7. *Cnemaspis regalis;*
 8. *Cnemaspis galaxia;*
 9. *Cnemaspis nigriventris;*
 10. *Cnemaspis flavigularis;*
 11. *Cnemaspis palanica;*
 12. *Cnemaspis jackieii*
- They have also rediscovered populations of some species which have not been reported since their original discovery over 100 years ago.
 - The study published in the **international journal Zoological Research** is authored by **Saunak Pal, Zeeshan A. Mirza, Princia D'souza and Kartik Shanker.**
 - The researchers have named one of the new species *Cnemaspis jackieii* or Jackie's Day Gecko.
 - It is Commonly known as 'dwarf geckos' or even 'day geckos'.
 - geckos of the genus 'Cnemaspis' are known to be distributed in Africa, Indo-Sri Lanka and southeast Asia.

Note :

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- The study was part of a larger survey of frogs, lizards and snakes of the Western Ghats, supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund between 2009 and 2014.
- The project, led by Mr. Shanker from CES, IISc,

Aim :

- To map the diversity and distribution of these groups in the Ghats, towards discovering species, documenting diversity and using this information towards conservation prioritisation.

A New Species of Onion : *Allium Negianum* Discovered in Uttarakhand

- A New Species of **Onion** named **Allium Negianum** Discovered in **Uttarakhand** to honour the late **Dr. Kuldeep Singh Negi** who was an explorer and the collector of Allium.
- The new species found in Uttarakhand has been described in the **journal Phytokeys**.
- It was discovered by the scientists in the border area of **Malari Village**, in the **Chamoli district of Uttarakhand**.
- **Dr. Anjula Pandey**, Principal Scientist at ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, together with scientists **K Madhav Rai, S Rajkumar, and Pawan Kumar Malav** discovered the new species.

New Micro snail species *Georissa mawsmiensis* discovered from Meghalaya cave

- A **New micro snail species** named **Georissa mawsmiensis** has been discovered from **Mawsmi, a limestone cave in Meghalaya**.
- The discovery has been reported in the **Journal of Conchology**.

Research Team :

- Team of researchers involved in the discovery are **Nipu Kumar Das and NA Aravind of the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru**.

Note :

- Until now, **five snail species** have been found from the Meghalaya caves.

3 new fish species spotted in Arunachal Pradesh

- The **Department of Zoology of Dera Natung Government College of Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh** has discovered **three new species of fish of genus Aborichthys of family Nemachelidae**.
- The three fish species have been named **Aborichthys uniobarensis, Aborichthys barapensis and Aborichthys palinensis**.
- The discovery has been **published** in international journals like **Asian Journal of Conservation Biology, Journal of Threatened Taxa and FishTaxa**.
- The three fish species are distributed in streams like Senki, Barap and Palin, which are the tributaries of Brahmaputra river system.

Note :

- Earlier, 11 species of the genus Aborichthys were discovered in the Eastern Himalayan region across a century, starting from the early 1900s.
- Till Now, **more than 250 fish species** have been identified in the region.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

New species of tiny beetle named after the coronavirus: *Trigonopterus corona*

- **Museum scientists from Indonesia and Germany** have just discovered **28 new species of beetles** named ***Trigonopterus corona*** from the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.
- The species, all of which measure **2-3 mm**, are described in the **journal Zookeys**.
- Most of the new species were collected by Raden Pramesa Narakusumo, curator of beetles at the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense, from two localities of Central Sulawesi Province: Mt. Dako and Mt. Pompango.
- It is not the only insect species to be named after the pandemic.
- In April, a new species of caddisfly (a moth-like insect) was collected near a stream in Kosovo by a team of scientists, and named *Potamophylax coronavirus*.
- *Trigonopterus* is a genus of flightless weevils placed in the Cryptorhynchinae of Curculionidae.
- *Trigonopterus* species are distributed in Australia, Indonesia and Melanesia.

Important Ranking and Index

Hurun India Rich List 2021 : Mukesh Ambani tops

- According to the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2021, **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani** continues to be **India's richest man** for the **10th straight year** with a **net worth of Rs 7,18,000 crore**.
- Meanwhile, **Gautam Adani & family** moved up two places to take the **second** richest spot in this year's list with a wealth of ₹5,05,900 crore.
- **Shiv Nadar & family** maintained its third position with a 67 percent increase in their wealth to Rs 2.36 lakh crore

India Ranks 59th in 'Digital Quality of Life Index 2021; Denmark Tops

- India was positioned at an overall rank of 59th among 110 countries in the 3rd edition of 'Digital Quality of Life Index (DQL) 2021' prepared by cybersecurity company 'Surfshark'.
- This is 2 positions lower than the 57th rank secured by India in the 2020 Index.
- For the 2nd consecutive time, Denmark topped the ranking, followed by South Korea & Finland in 2nd & 3rd positions.
- Ethiopia is the lowest (110) ranked Country. Cambodia ranked at 108th Position & Cameroon ranked at 109th Position .
- The Index ranks India at 17th place among the Asian countries and 1st in the South Asian region.
- The report evaluates countries' digital quality based on 5 fundamental principles.

New species of swamp eel discovered in Mumbai

- A new species of swamp eel named **Rakthamichthys Mumba** – the Mumbai blind eel was discovered in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- The word 'Mumba' derives its roots from the **Marathi** language, which honours Mumba Aai, a deity worshipped by inhabitants of the city.
- It was published in September 2021 in **Aqua International Journal of Ichthyology**.

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- This is the **fifth species** from the **genus** to be described from India & this is the **first such discovered species** from **Maharashtra and Northern western Ghats**.

Research Team :

- The new species was found by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's younger son Tejas Thackeray and the team at Thackeray Wildlife Foundation in a 40-foot deep well on the premises of a blind school at Jogeshwari West in 2019.
- The species was discovered by four scientists namely, Anil Mohapatra, Tejas Thackeray, Praveenraj Jayasimhan and Annam Pavan Kumar.

Forbes India Rich List 2021 : Mukesh Ambani tops with a net worth of \$92.7 billion

- On Oct 07, 2021, According to **Forbes magazine's 100 richest Indians list**, the **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** has **topped** with a **net worth** totalling **\$92.7 billion**.
- He has retained the wealthiest Indian for the **14th consecutive year** on Forbes India list, since 2008.
- Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani secured the second spot with a net worth of \$74.8 billion.
- The minimum amount required to make this year's list was \$1.94 billion, up from \$1.33 billion in 2020.
- There are six newcomers on this year's list, with half of them from the booming chemicals sector include Ashok Boob (No. 93, \$2.3 billion) whose Clean Science and Technology listed in July; Deepak Mehta (No. 97, \$2.05 billion) of Deepak Nitrite and Yogesh Kothari (No. 100, \$1.94 billion) of Alkyl Amines Chemicals. Arvind Lal (No. 87, \$2.55 billion) and others.

Rank	Company	Net worth (USD Billion)
1	Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) - Mukesh Ambani	\$92.7 billion
2	Adani Group - Gautam Adani	\$74.8 billion
3	HCL Technologies - Shiv Nadar	\$31 billion
4	Avenue Supermarts - Radhakrishan Damani	\$29.4 billion
5	Serum Institute of India - Cyrus Poonawalla	\$19 billion

Henley Passport Index 2021

- India has been **ranked 90th** in the most powerful passport report 'Henley Passport Index 2021'.
- India fell down to the **90th position**, with its passport holders allowed to travel visa-free to **58 countries**.
- India **shares** the rank with **Tajikistan and Burkina Faso**.
- India was **ranked 85th** in the January 2021's index', (84th) in 2020 and (82nd) in 2019.

Global Rankings:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- Japan and Singapore stood at the top of this year's list, with their passport holders allowed to travel visa-free to 192 countries, while South Korea and Germany share the second position.
- For the third consecutive year, Japan has secured the top position.
- Meanwhile, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, and Yemen are among the least powerful.

Global Hunger Index 2021 : India Ranks 101 Out of 116 Countries

- In the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021, India's rank has dropped to 101 with a GHI score of 27.5 out of 50, which comes under serious category among 116 countries.
- India's neighbours like Nepal (76), Bangladesh (76), Myanmar (71) and Pakistan (92) are also in the 'alarming' hunger category.
- The report was prepared by the Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and Germany's Welt Hunger Hilfe.
- The report termed the level of hunger in India as "alarming".
- Based on the current GHI projections, the world as a whole and 47 countries in particular will fail to achieve a low level of hunger by 2030.
- In 2020, India was placed at 94th place with a score of 27.2, out of 107 countries.
- India's GHI score has decelerated, from 38.8 in 2000 to the range of 28.8-27.5 between 2012 and 2021.

GHI scores are determined based on values of four indicators:

- undernourishment (share of the population with insufficient caloric intake),
- child wasting (share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition),
- child stunting (share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition),
and
- child mortality (mortality rate of children under age five, partly reflecting the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments).
- The Global Hunger Index measures hunger on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst.

Level	Value
Low severity	≤ 9.9
Moderate severity	10.0–19.9
serious severity	20.0–34.9
alarming severity	35.0–49.9
extremely alarming severity	≥ 50.0

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Reliance Industries tops India Inc in Forbes World's Best Employer 2021 Ranking

- **Reliance Industries**, the country's largest company by revenues, profits and market value, has topped **Indian corporates** in the **World's Best Employers rankings 2021** published by **Forbes**.
- It has been prepared by Forbes in partnership with market research company **Statista**.
- Mukesh Ambani-owned RIL was placed at the **52nd position** in the overall ranking of 750 global corporations.
- The global ranking was topped by South Korean giant Samsung Electronics, followed by US giants IBM, Microsoft, Amazon, Apple, Alphabet and Dell Technologies.
- The rankings were compiled after surveying 150,000 full-time and part-time workers from 58 countries working for multinational companies and institutions.
- Parameters used during the survey for the ranking includes image, economic footprint, talent development, gender equality and social responsibility.

Highlights :

- According to the Forbes ranking, other Indian names in the top 100 rankings were ICICI Bank at 65, HDFC Bank at 77 and HCL Technologies at 90.
- State Bank of India (SBI) was placed at 119 and Larsen & Toubro at 127.
- Infosys was ranked at 588 and Tata Group at 746 & Life Insurance Corp (LIC) was placed at 504.
- Other Indian firms on the list included Bajaj at 215, Axis Bank at 254, Indian Bank at 314, Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) at 404, Amara Raja Group at 405, Kotak Mahindra Bank at 418 and Bank of India at 451.
- ITC was placed at 453, while Cipla was at 460 and Bank of Baroda at 496.

Recent News :

- On October 07, 2021, The Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani topped the Forbes India Rich list for 2021.

India ranks third in RE Attractiveness Index

- In the **58th edition** of EY's 'Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index' (RECAI), India remained at the **third position** with an **index score of 70.2** released by the consultancy firm **Ernst & Young (EY)**.

Top 5 in RECAI :

1. United States - 72.8
2. Mainland China - 70.7
3. India - 70.2
4. France - 67.4 (Rank improved from 5 in the 57th edition)
5. UK - 67.3 (Rank deteriorated from 4)

Corporate PPA Index 2021:

- **Corporate Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Index** was newly included in the current edition of RECAI, in which **India ranked 6th** among the top 30 PPA markets.

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Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey 2021 : India ranks 40 & Top- Iceland

- India has ranked **40th** out of **43 pension systems** across the world in the **2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey**.
- India had an overall **index value of 43.3**.
- Globally, **Iceland** was ranked **highest** with an overall index value of **84.2** while **Thailand** had the **lowest** overall index value at **40.6**.
- India had stood at 34th position out of 39 pension systems rated in 2020.
- The index highlights the key strengths of retirement systems around three sub-indices – adequacy, sustainability and integrity, (India scoring 33.5, 41.8 and 61.0 respectively.)

Adequacy :

- The adequacy sub-index represents the adequacy of the advantages which might be being offered.

Sustainability :

- The sustainability sub-index represents the probability that the current system will be able to perform in the future.

Integrity :

- The integrity sub-index contains many legal requirements that affect the overall management and operation of the system and affect citizens' trust in their system.
- The coverage under private pension arrangement is just about 6 per cent in India.
- With over 90 per cent of the total workforce being in the unorganised sector, measures should be taken to get a larger workforce under pension savings.
- Four new pension schemes have been added to 2021 MCGPI – **Iceland, Taiwan, UAE and Uruguay**.

Global Food Security Index (GFSI) 2021: India ranks 71st out of 113 countries

- India is ranked at **71st** position in the **Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021** out of **113 countries** with a score of **57.2 points**.
- It was followed by **Pakistan (75th), Sri Lanka (77th), Nepal (79th) and Bangladesh (84th)**.
- The GFS Index was designed and constructed by **London-based Economist Impact** and is sponsored by **Corteva Agriscience**.
- **Ireland (84), Austria (81.3), Britain (81), Finland (80.9), Switzerland (80.4)**, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, France and the US shared the top spot on the index with an overall GFS score of between 77.8 and 80 points.

India Ranks 79th in World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2021; Denmark tops

- India has been ranked at **79th spot** among **139 countries** with an **overall score of 0.50** in the **World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2021**.
- The index is **prepared** by the **Washington DC based World Justice Project**.
- It ranks the countries based on scores ranging from **0 to 1**, with 1 indicating the strongest adherence to the rule of law.

Top 3 Countries in WJP Rule of Law Index 2021 :

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

1. Denmark - 0.90
 2. Norway - 0.90
 3. Finland - 0.88
- **Venezuela, RB** is the **least ranked country** at **139th spot** with an overall score of **0.27**.
 - The index measures how the rule of law is experienced and perceived across the world by the general public, legal practitioners and experts, in practical and everyday situations.

The WJP Rule of Law Index 2021 based on eight factors:

1. Constraints on Government Powers,
2. Absence of Corruption,
3. Open Government,
4. Fundamental Rights,
5. Order and Security,
6. Regulatory Enforcement,
7. Civil Justice
8. Criminal Justice

India ranked 9th in World's Top 10 For Climate Tech Investment

- **India** ranks at the **ninth spot globally for climate tech investment**, with the country's climate tech businesses receiving **US\$ 1 billion in venture capital** funding between **2016 and 2021**.
- The report was mutually prepared by **international trade promotion agency London & Partners** and **Amsterdam-based database management company Dealroom.co**.

The top 10 countries for climate tech VC investment between 2016 and 2021 :

1. US (US\$ 48 billion)
 2. China (US\$ 18.6 billion)
 3. Sweden (US\$ 5.8 billion)
 4. UK (US\$ 4.3 billion)
 5. France (US\$ 3.7 billion)
 6. Germany (US\$ 2.7 billion)
 7. Canada (US\$ 1.4 billion)
 8. Netherlands (US\$ 1.3 billion)
 9. India (US\$ 1 billion)
 10. Singapore (US\$ 700 million).
- Global climate tech venture capital investment surged from US\$ 6.6 billion in 2016 to US\$ 32.3 billion in 2021.
 - Europe is found to be the fastest-growing region globally for climate tech, with European VC investment into climate tech firms seven times higher this year than in 2016 (up from USD 1.1 bn to USD 8bn).

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- In Europe, London is one of the world's most innovative ecosystems for climate tech, with its startups raising US\$ 3.3 billion since 2016, accounting for 16% of Europe's total.

State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020 : Karnataka tops

- **Karnataka** has topped the **State Energy Efficiency Index 2020 (SEEI)** with a score of **70 points** out of 100.
- **Rajasthan** has ranked **second** after Karnataka on the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020 released by the Union Ministry of Power.
- The second-highest performer, Rajasthan, is the only state to have constituted an ECBC cell in its Public Works Department (PWD).
- The two most improved states in SEEI 2020 are Rajasthan and Maharashtra.
- In the SEEI 2019 ranking, Rajasthan was on top.

Top 10 most energy efficient states in the country :

1. Karnataka - with a score of 70
2. Rajasthan - 61
3. Haryana - 59.5
4. Punjab - 58
5. Maharashtra - 57.5
6. Kerala - 53
7. Tamil Nadu - 51.5
8. Andhra Pradesh - 50.5
9. Uttar Pradesh - 35.5
10. Gujarat - 34

The SEEI assesses the states in four categories :

1. Aspirant (with a score below 30 points)
 2. Contenders (with a score in the range of 30-50)
 3. Achievers (with a score of 50-60)
 4. Frontrunners (with above 60 points score).
- The 2020 Index has **68 indicators** covering all demand sectors – buildings, industry, municipalities, transport, agriculture – and DISCOMs.
 - Thirty-six states and union territories have been assessed in State EE Index 2020.

Important Schemes List

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Channi Launches "Mera Ghar Mere Naam" Scheme

- On Oct 17, 2021, Punjab Chief Minister **Charanjit Singh Channi** launched a new scheme titled '**Mera Ghar Mere Naam**'.

Aim :

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- To confer proprietary rights on the people living in the houses within the 'Lal Laker' of villages and the cities.
- 'Lal lakir' refers to land that is part of the village habitation and is used for non-agriculture purposes only.
- The state government will **ensure ownership rights to people** under this scheme.
- The people residing in the houses in old localities for generations would also be covered
- The Revenue department has been mandated to undertake drone surveys of such residential properties both in rural and urban areas for digital mapping following which all eligible residents would be given the property cards, after proper identification or verification, to confer proprietary rights upon them in a time-bound manner.
- The property card will serve the purpose of a registry against which they can avail loans from the banks or even sell their properties.

Note :

- Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi also informed that another scheme '**Basera**' has been providing relief to the people residing in slum areas outside the 'lal lakir'.

Important Books and Authors

Authors/Released by	Books
Wole Soyinka	Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth
Jerry Rao	Economist Gandhi: The Roots and the Relevance of the Political Economy of the Mahatma
Rajnish Kumar	The Custodian of Trust
Sujeet Sarkar	Quest for a Stable Afghanistan: A View from Ground Zero
NITI Aayog & UNDP	Handbook On Sustainable Urban Plastic Waste Management
Shafey Kidwai	Sir Syed Ahmad Khan; Reason, Religion and Nation
Gulzar	Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir
Actress Divya Dutta	The Stars in My Sky
Uday Mahurkar and Chirayu Pandit	Veer Savarkar: The Man Who Could Have Prevented Partition
Venkataraghavan Subha Srinivasan	The Origin Story of India's States
Ruskin Bond	Writing for My Life
Chidanand Rajghatta	Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Former Union minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' gifts his book to PM Modi

- Former Union minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** gifted a copy of his book titled **Ek Jang Ladte Hue to Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- The Book was written by Pokhriyal while he was battling COVID-19 at AIIMS in Delhi.
- The Book was Published by **Prabhat Prakashan Private Limited**.

Important Peoples' in News

William Shatner becomes oldest person in history to fly to space

- 90-year-old Canadian actor **William Shatner** has become the **oldest person ever to fly to space**.
- He blasted into space on **Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin rocket** on October 13, 2021.
- He was joined by three other fellow passengers, **Chris Boshuizen, William Shatner, Audrey Powers and Glen de Vries** on the 11-minute journey beyond Earth's atmosphere and back again.
- They reached an altitude of 66.5 miles (107 kilometers) over the West Texas desert in the fully automated capsule 'New Shepard.
- It was the second successful near-space flight by Blue Origin, which earlier in July launched a crew that included Bezos.

Note :

- William Shatner is a **Canadian actor**, author, producer, director, screenwriter, and musician.

Russian filmmaker Klim Shipenko's "The Challenge" becomes world's first film in space

- A Russian actress **Yulia Peresild** and a film director **Klim Shipenko** spent **12 days on the International Space Station (ISS) filming 30 minutes duration scenes** for the film "The Challenge".
- It took around 30 hours to record the material while in space.
- A Russian film crew has scripted a record by undertaking the first-ever motion picture shooting session in the International Space Station (ISS).

About the Film :

- "The Challenge" is the first feature film to be shot in space.
- The film is based on the life of a woman doctor who goes to space to save a cosmonaut's life.

Important Acquisitions & Mergers

Piramal Group Acquires DHFL For ₹ 34,250 Crore

- **Piramal Enterprises** has completed the acquisition of **Dewan Housing Finance (DHFL)** by paying **Rs 34,250 crore** to creditors of the housing finance company.
- This marks the first successful resolution of a financial services company under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The DHFL will recover an aggregate amount of Rs 38,000 crore from the DHFL's resolution, which includes Rs 34,250 crore paid by Piramal Enterprises and Rs 3,800 crore from the cash balance of DHFL.

Paytm acquires 100% ownership of lending startup CreditMate

- Digital payment services provider **Paytm** has **acquired 100% stake** in **CreditMate**.
- However, the transaction details of the deal have not been disclosed.

The Paytm Group will now be the 100% beneficial owners of the business, while the co-founders of CreditMate will exit the business

MetLife acquires stake in PNB Metlife to 47.32% in Rs 1,906 cr

- US-based insurer **Metlife Inc** acquired the combined **15.27 percent stakes** of **I.G.E. (India) Private Ltd (IGE)** and **Elpro International Ltd (Elpro)** in the **PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Ltd (PNB MetLife)** for about **₹1,906 crore cash**.
- On concluding this deal, the cumulative shareholding of MetLife International Holdings would amount to a **totality of 47.325 percent** making it the largest shareholder in the private life insurer.
- The tentative date of completion of the transaction is November 30, 2021.
- Other shareholders of PNB Metlife include **Punjab National Bank Limited (PNB), M. Pallonji and Company Private Limited, Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited (JKB)**, and other private investors.
- This marks the second merger and acquisition activity in the life insurance sector in the past month after HDFC Life acquired a 100 per cent stake in Exide Industries-promoted Exide Life Insurance for Rs 6,687 crore, in a bid to enhance its proprietary channel.

Reliance New Energy Solar acquires REC Solar Holdings for \$771 million

- **Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd (RNESSL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)**, has acquired **100% shareholding** of **REC Solar Holdings AS (REC Group)** from **China National Bluestar (Group) Co Ltd.**, for an **Enterprise Value of \$771 million**.
- The acquisition is key to RIL's new-energy vision to become a global-scale photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing player, which includes plans to build solar capacity of at least 100 gigawatts (GW) by 2030.
- The acquisition of REC will help Reliance with a ready global platform and the opportunity to expand and grow in key green energy markets globally, including in the US, Europe, Australia and elsewhere in Asia.

Reliance Brands acquires 40% stake in designer Manish Malhotra's MM Styles

- **Reliance Industries Ltd's Reliance Brands Ltd (RBL)** acquired **40 percent** stake in famous designer **Manish Malhotra's MM Styles Pvt Ltd**.
- It is the **first "external investment"** for **MM Styles Pvt Ltd** & Till Now it is one of the most prominent investments by RBL in the luxury ethnic wear market.

Aim :

- To accelerate the 16-year-old couture house's growth plans in India and across the globe.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The partnership will work on creating a strong technology backbone for the business, developing phygital and experiential e-commerce opportunities.

CCI approves Phoenix Parentco's acquisition of Parexel International Corporation

- Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved acquisition of Parexel International Corporation by Phoenix Parentco Inc.
- The proposed combination envisages acquisition of 100 percent of the equity shareholding of Parexel International Corporation.
- Phoenix Parentco is a special purpose investment vehicle that operates solely as an investment holding company.
- The Acquirer is jointly controlled by EQT Fund Management S.à r.l. (EQT) and the Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (Goldman Sachs).

Twitter acquires group chat app Sphere

- Twitter has acquired a chat app called Sphere, which was co-founded by British serial entrepreneur Nick D'Aloisio.
- It has raised about \$30 million in the first two rounds.
- Roughly 500,000 people used the first version of the app
- The app could use the acquisition to improve its personal and group messaging capabilities.

Important Web Portals and Mobile Apps

New online system of MSME/Udyam Registration crosses 50 lakh mark

- The CHAMPIONS portal of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has announced that a new online system of MSME/Udyam Registration has crossed 50 lakh registrations of MSMEs.
- These include over 47 lakh Micro organisations and 2.7 lakh Small Units.

Aim :

- To make the smaller units big by helping and handholding, and by solving their problems and grievances.
- The registration is free of cost and should be done only on the Government portal.

Govt launches web portal Waste to Wealth - To find solutions to India's waste problems

- On Oct 02, 2021, The government launched a web portal called "Waste to Wealth" to bring together technology providers, government stakeholders and urban local bodies to find solutions to India's waste problems, mainly plastic waste.
- The portal has been launched by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser and inaugurated by the Principal Scientific Advisor K. Vijay Raghavan.

Aim :

- To enhance cooperation for sustainable development through economy and community participation.

PM Modi launches Jal Jeevan Mission App & Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh

- On Oct 02, 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Jal Jeevan Mission App and Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Aim :

- To improve awareness among stakeholders and for greater transparency and accountability of schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
- All details about the mission, including how many households received water, quality of water, among other things, will be available in one place on the mobile application.
- Further, Rs. 1.42 lakh Crore has been allocated to PRIs as a tied grant under the 15th Finance Commission for water and sanitation in villages for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Shipping Minister Sarbanand Sonowal launches 'MyPortApp' in Kolkata

- On October 08, 2021, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Shri Sarbanand Sonowal** launched a port mobile application called **MyPortApp** in Kolkata.

Aim :

- To promote transparency and easy access to port-related information.
- The App will provide all details regarding ports in India and also monitor operations virtually.
- It has various information like Vessel Berthing, Rake & Indent, Rake Receipt, Container Status, Tariff, Bills, Port Holidays, etc. and also it can be accessed anywhere 24x7 and reach out directly to port.
- Notably, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal is on a **2-day visit to West Bengal** where he inaugurated, launched and dedicated several projects worth Rs 352 crore to the nation.
- He also launched a 1 MegaWatt solar project in Haldia port, which will generate sustainable energy for port operations.

Apps	Launched by
Elder Line	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
PRAGATI	Life Insurance Corporation
PRANA	Union Minister Bhupender Yadav
Portal for National Livestock Mission	Union Minister Parshottam Rupala

BPCL Unveils automated fuelling technology UFill

- Indian government-owned **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, has unveiled an automated fuelling technology system, called "UFill".
- To provide **swift, secure and smart experience** to its customers at outlets by providing them with control of fuelling .
- It is a digital customer experience which delivers on BPCL's promise of ensuring that their customers have complete control over time, technology, and transparency as part of their fueling experience.
- The UFill proposition has been launched in **65 cities** across India and will soon be launched across India.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- It can be used with any payment app like GPay, PayTM, PhonePe etc as well as offers real time QR and voucher code through SMS.
- Adding to transparency and convenience, if the amount paid in advance is partially used, the balance amount is immediately refunded to the bank account of the customer.
- It is effective across the stakeholder chain, right from the company officials to end-users, including dealers, managers and driveway salesmen (DSM).

Union Minister Anurag Thakur launches MyParkings App in New Delhi

- On Oct 14, 2021, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting **Anurag Thakur** launched the 'MyParkings' app.
- It has been developed by **Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL)** with **South Delhi Municipal Corporation** with the purpose to digitize all authorized parking under SDMC municipal limits.

Key people :

- The app launch was attended by Mukkesh Surya, Mayor, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC); Gyanesh Bharti, Commissioner, SDMC and George Kuruvilla, CMD, BECIL.
- This facility will be rolled out in future to other municipality divisions across India.
- The app will help reduce pollution from vehicles by minimising the time spent searching for parking spots.
- It will offer an effortless solution to users for hassle-free parking and booking of online parking slots to park their vehicles without inconvenience.

Features of MyParkings App :

1. On Spot & Advanced Bookings of vehicle Parking
2. Flexibility of selecting slots through easy to use mobile app
3. Parking solution enabled with Prepaid/Smart Cards
4. Option of Paperless check-in & check-out of the vehicles
5. Share parking for Safety & recall
6. Display of Amenities & facilities in & nearby parking location
7. Management of parking Pass for daily/regular commuters
8. Options for EV charging station & Integration of card with DTC/Delhi METRO
9. Smart QR Code for slot booking, check in & checkout
10. ANPR – Automatic number plate recognition system

Assam launches India's first e-fish market app Fishwaale

- **Assam** Minister for Fisheries, Environment and Forest and Excise **Parimal Suklabaidya** launched **Fishwaale, India's first e-fish market app**.
- The app has been developed by **Aqua Blue Global Aquaculture Solutions Pvt. Ltd.** in collaboration with the **Fisheries department**.

Election Commission of India launches Garuda App

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** launched the **Garuda app** for the digital mapping of all polling stations.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launches World's First Instant Advice CUNSULT App

- On Oct 25, 2021, Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** launched **World's First Instant Advice App CUNSULT** knowledge App and platform.
- The app has been prepared by former IAS **Raghav Chandra**.

Key People :

- CEO Niti Aayog **Amitabh Kant** and Former Secretary **Raghav Chandra**, Information and Broadcasting Secretary **Apurva Chandra** also Presented the event.

About CUNSULT App :

- CUNSULT app is the first such global facility by which people who **need information, advice, counsel, guidance** can contact and call up experts in multiple sectors on-the-go.
- Each expert also gets a unique, exclusive page reflecting their contributions by way of articles and video-blogs and this serves as their intellectual legacy and helps to promote interest in them.
- CUNSULT uses the framework of context and convergence to instantly connect knowledge seekers and knowledge givers
- The app will be a forum for mentors to share their life experiences & it will allow people to learn from the wisdom which has been acquired over the lifetime.
- Through this app, people will get information on **65 subjects related to agriculture, economic information, women empowerment, social science, sports, health, literature, insurance, army, security, energy, environment, food, human resources, Indian history, railways, mobile .**

Important Sports News

Cricket

Smriti Mandhana becomes first Indian woman to score Test century on Australia

- Indian opener **Smriti Mandhana** became the **first Indian woman** to score a **century** in a **pink-ball women's cricket Test against Australia**.
- This is also the first century by an Indian woman on Australian soil.
- In ODIs, Smriti has the highest score of 102 and in T20Is, the highest of 66 against Australia women Down Under.
- The match being played between India and Australia women at the Carrara Oval in Queensland, Australia today.
- She scored 127 runs with 22 fours and a six.

Note :

- Earlier, Kohli had become the first Indian cricketer in the men's game to have scored a hundred in a pink-ball Test, doing so against Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens.

Fire-Boltt Appointed Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli as its Brand Ambassador

- Fire-Boltt, **India's leading smart wearable brand**, has appointed Indian cricketer **Virat Kohli** as its brand ambassador.
- As the brand ambassador he will take part in **the various marketing, advertisement and endorsement campaigns of the brand**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The products of **Fire-Boltt** range from smartwatches, Bluetooth earphones, Bluetooth headphones, true wireless earbuds, Bluetooth speakers, soundbars and lifestyle shoes.

Addl.Info:

- National award-winning **Bollywood Actor, Vicky Kaushal**, was appointed as the first ever brand ambassador of **Fire-Boltt**.

Australia beat India by 14 runs in 3rd women's T20 final by 11-5 points

- **Australia** beat India by **14 runs** in the **third and final T20 Women's International** to seal the multi-format series by **11-5 points**.
- All three formats have been clubbed together and India after losing the WODI series by 1-2 margin, lost the WT20I 0-2.
- Opener Beth Monney (61) and Tahlia McGrath (44) top-scored as Australia scored a decent 149 for five.
- For India, left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/37), Renuka Singh (1/23), Pooja Vastrakar (1/24) and off-spinner Deepti Sharma (1/24) were the wicket-takers.
- Chasing the total, Smriti Mandhana scored 49-ball 52 but India kept losing wickets to eventually manage only 135 for 6 in their stipulated 20 overs.

Chennai Super Kings wins 2021 IPL title

- On Oct 15, 2021, **Chennai Super Kings** clinched their **fourth Indian Premier League title** after beating **Kolkata Knight Riders** by 27 runs in the summit clash at **Dubai International Stadium**.
- This was the **14th edition of IPL** which is an India-based Cricket league in 20-20 format.
- This was the 4th win of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in IPL, having previously won the tournament in 2010, 2011, and 2018.
- The first half of IPL was played in India, while the second half was played in UAE.
- **M.S. Dhoni** is the **captain** of **CSK**, the winning team & **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)** was led by **Eoin Morgan** of the Runner up team (He is from England).
- Faf du Plessis was named man of the match hit a magnificent 86 off 59 balls
- Player of the Tournament: **Harshal Patel (RCB)**
- Highest Run Scorer : **Ruturaj Gaikwad (CSK)** gets the Orange Cap for scoring the most runs - 635 - in this season
- Highest Wicket Taker (Purple Cap): **Harshal Patel (RCB)** gets the Purple Cap for his 32 wickets in the season

Amy Hunter Becomes Youngest Batter To Hit ODI Century

- **Amy Hunter (16)** became the **youngest-ever batter** to score an **international century** in Ireland Women's clash against Zimbabwe.
- She struck an unbeaten 121 in Harare to become the youngest player, male or female, to score a one-day international century.
- **The Belfast batter** who was playing in only her fourth ODI broke the record previously held by India's Mithali Raj, scorer of a century against Ireland in 1999 when she was 16 years 205 days

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Australia fast bowler James Pattinson retires from international cricket

- **Australia** fast bowler **James Pattinson** has **retired from international cricket** ahead of the 2021–22 Ashes series.
- He will continue playing for his State team Victoria and help nurture the next generation of fast bowlers.

Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 : Ahmedabad and Lucknow are the two new teams

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** unveiled **Ahmedabad and Lucknow** as the **two new teams** for the **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022**.
- With the addition of two teams, the BCCI announced that the IPL will become a **10-team** affair with a total of 74 matches to be played in each edition.
- **RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group (RPSG)** is the owner of the Lucknow team while **CVC Capital Partners** is the owner of the Ahmedabad team.
- RPSG group has won the bid for Lucknow at Rs. 7090 crore, while CVC Capitals a.k.a Ireliia has won the bid for Ahmedabad at Rs. 5625 crore.

Netherlands All-Rounder Ryan Ten Doeschate Retires From International Cricket

- **Netherlands all-rounder Ryan ten Doeschate** announced his **retirement** from **international cricket** after his side failed to qualify for the **Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup**.
- He played his **last match** against **Namibia** in the recently concluded ICC T20 qualifiers round.

Telangana Govt Unveils World's Largest Cricket Bat In Hyderabad

- **Former India captain** and **Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA)** president **Mohd Azharuddin** unveiled the **world's largest cricket bat** in Hyderabad.

Key people :

- The bat was unveiled in the presence of principal secretary, MA&UD and commissioner, I & PR, Arvind Kumar and principal secretary, I&C and IT, Jayesh Ranjan.
- The bat, which was designed by **Pernod Ricard India (P) Ltd**, was fabricated by BSL events.
- The bat measures **56.10 feet, weighs nine tonnes** and is made of poplar wood.
- The budget spent on making the bat amounts to almost Rs 70 lakh and had taken about a month to be made.
- The bat is currently on display on tank Bund, Hyderabad and will be placed there on November 16.

Football

Durand Cup football trophy 2021 : FC Goa clinch maiden: Durand Cup trophy after beating Mohammedan Sporting 1-0 in final

- On Oct 03, 2021, Indian Super League side **FC Goa** were **crowned** champions of the **130th Durand Cup football championship**, beating **Mohammedan Sporting 1-0**, in the final, held at **Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata**.
- **Captain Eduardo Bedia** scored the all important goal from a set piece in the 105th minute after the final match went into the extra time.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The Durand Cup crown also marked FC Goa coach Juan Ferrando Fenoll's first-ever trophy on Indian soil.

List of awards and honours in 2021 Season :

- Champions award: FC Goa
- Runners-up award: Mohammedan Sporting
- Golden Glove award: Naveen Kumar (FC Goa)
- Golden Boot award: Marcus Joseph (Mohammedan Sporting)
- Golden Ball award: Eduardo Bedia (FC Goa)

Germany unveils logo for UEFA Euro 2024

- **Germany** unveiled the **logo** for **football's 2024 European Championship**.
- The **slogan** for the tournament **United by Football**.
- The UEFA Euro 2024 logo is derived from the UEFA's 55 member associations' flags with their colours assembling in various combinations resembling the Olympiastadion's roof.
- The center of the logo features the famous Henri Delaunay Cup – the tournament trophy, with the 24 colours representing the 24 participating teams of EURO.
- The European Championship 2024 is set to take place in June and July 2024 across **10 host cities** (Berlin, Cologne, Dortmund, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Gelsenkirchen, Hamburg, Leipzig, Munich and Stuttgart) in Germany with the match schedule to be confirmed by 2022.

FIFA unveils Ibha - official mascot of U-17 2022 Women's World Cup

- On Oct 11, 2021, The World football governing body, **FIFA** unveiled the official **mascot** named "**IBHA**" of the **U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022**.

Aim :

- To inspire & encourage women and girls across the world to take the right decisions and reach their full potential using teamwork, resilience, kindness and empowering others."

Note :

- All India Football Federation President and Local Organising Committee (LOC) chairman : Praful Patel.

Football: Sunil Chhetri equals Pele with 77th goal

- **Sunil Chhetri** has equalled the legendary Pele by making the 77th international goal as his 83rd minute strike, on October 10, 2021.
- **Note:** 77th goal by Chhetri during the strike helped India to beat Nepal by 1-0.
- This goal also saved his side from the verge of elimination in SAFF Championships.

'Our Goal for All' – Tagline for 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup Unveiled

- **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** and the **Local Organising Committee (LOC)** unveiled 'Our Goal for All' as the official tagline for the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022.

Important Notes:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- 'Our Goal for All' implies the unity and collective effort of the Asian football members to create a glorious future for women's football.
- The AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 will take place in three Indian cities of Maharashtra – Navi Mumbai, Mumbai and Pune– from January 20 to February 6 in 2022.
- Top 12 football teams from Asia will participate in the cup which include reigning champions **Japan, 2018 runners-up Australia, third-placed China PR and hosts India.**
- They will be joined by **Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Korea Republic, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and others.**

2021 SAFF Championship : India Beat Nepal 3-0 To Win 8th Title

- On Oct 16, 2021, **India beat Nepal, 3-0**, to win the **2021 SAFF Championship final title** at the **National Football Stadium in Male, Maldives.**
- Top Scorer in the championship **Sunil Chhetri (Captain)** – 5 goals.
- Sunil Chhetri, Suresh Singh Wangjam and Sahal Abdul Samad were the goal scorers for the Indian team in the final.
- The 37-year-old Chhetri scored his 80th international strike at the championship to equal his score with Lionel Messi and became the second highest goal-scorer in international football among active players.

2021 FIFA Rankings: India rise one spot to 106th

- In the **2021 FIFA Rankings India** has additionally moved one spot forward to the **106th** position after the Sunil Chhetri-led aspect received the SAFF Championship.
- The Blue Tigers had defeated Nepal in the summit clash.

Top 5 in 2021 FIFA Rankings :

1. Belgium
2. Brazil
3. France
4. Italy
5. England

Others

Olympic bronze medalist Rupinder Pal Singh announces retirement from international hockey

- On Sep 30, 2021, Olympic bronze medal-winning Indian hockey player **Rupinder Pal Singh** announced his retirement from international hockey with immediate effect to make way for youngsters.
- The 30-year-old, Rupinder Pal Singh, regarded as one of the best drag-flickers of the country, represented India in 223 matches.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Manny Pacquiao announces retirement from boxing

- The eight-division world champion and Philippines senator **Manny Pacquiao** announced his retirement from professional boxing after 26 years and 72 professional bouts.

Tokyo Olympic medalist Rupinder Pal Singh announces retirement from hockey

- The Olympic bronze medal-winning Indian hockey player, **Rupinder Pal Singh** has announced his retirement from international hockey to make way for young and talented players.
- **The 30-year-old Rupinder represented the Indian hockey team in 223 matches in his 13 years hockey career.**
- **Rupinder was part of the Indian hockey team that won the bronze medal in the 2020 Summer Tokyo Olympics, held in July – August 2021.**

Asian Table Tennis Championship 2021: Indian men's team wins bronze

- On Oct 01, 2021, The **Indian men's table tennis team** claimed the bronze medal after losing to **South Korea 0-3** in the semi-finals in the **Asian Table Tennis Championships** held in **Doha, Qatar from 28 September to 5 October**
- This is India's second medal at Asian Championships since 1976.
- The team consisted of Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai, Sanil Shetty, and Manav Thakkar.
- The women's team finished fifth after beating Thailand 3-1 .

Former India striker SV Sunil & Birendra Lakra announces retirement from International Hockey

- The veteran forward and star striker of India men's field hockey team, **S V Sunil** & Olympic bronze medal-winning Indian hockey star defender **Birendra Lakra** have announced their **retirement from international hockey.**

Awards & Honours :

- Sunil received the **Arjuna award** from President of India Ram Nath Kovind in 2017.

The National Basketball Association (NBA) named Bollywood superstar Ranveer Singh as the NBA Brand Ambassador

- The National Basketball Association (NBA) named Bollywood **superstar Ranveer Singh** as the **NBA Brand Ambassador for India** to help grow the league's profile in India throughout **its landmark 75th Anniversary Season in 2021-22.**
- With this collaboration, Ranveer Singh will participate in a number of league initiatives that will be featured on NBA India's and his personal social media accounts.
- He will attend **NBA All-Star 2022 in Cleveland**, where he will meet **NBA players and legends.**
- NBA is a global sports and media business built around four professional sports leagues: the National Basketball Association, Women's National Basketball Association, the NBA G League and the NBA 2K League.
- Ranveer will also be featured on **"NBA Style" (@nbastyle_in), a new lifestyle-focused Instagram account for fans in India.**
- Piramal Pharma roped in Kareena Kapoor to endorse baby products Piramal Pharma Limited's consumer products division has appointed Kareena Kapoor as brand ambassador for its brand Little's – Baby Wipes and Little's Comfy Baby Pants.
- As part of the collaboration, she will endorse baby products of the company.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Union Minister Kiren Rijju Inaugurates India's First Sports Arbitration Centre in Gujarat

- Union Law Minister **Kiren Rijju** inaugurated the country's **first "Sports Arbitration Centre of India"** at Ahmedabad in Gujarat.
- It will serve as an independent body to fast track disputes in the sports sector.
- The Sports Arbitration Centre of India (SACI) is promoted by Ahmedabad-based SE TransStadia Pvt Ltd.
- The Ministry of Law and Justice will provide all the legal backing to the SACI which will serve as a mechanism to redress issues related to sports, an initiative which is a first in our country.

Magnus Carlsen wins the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour

- On Oct 04, 2021, World Chess Champion **Magnus Carlsen** won the inaugural **Meltwater Champions Chess Tour (MCCT)**.
- He claimed the non-fungible token (NFT) trophy, and \$1,00,000 in the finals.

Hockey India withdraws from 2022 Commonwealth Games in England, Know details

- India on October 5, 2021, pulled out of the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games' **hockey competition stating the risk of contracting COVID-19 and the discriminatory quarantine rules by the United Kingdom (UK) for travellers coming from India.**
- The UK has refused to **consider India's COVID-19 vaccination certificates** and imposed a **10-day quarantine on travellers coming from India even if fully vaccinated.**
- **India has also imposed reciprocal rules on all UK nationals arriving in the country** following UK's discriminatory quarantine rules.

FIDE World Women's Team Championship Final: India clinches Silver medal

- **India** clinched a **silver medal** after going down 0-2 to **Russia** in the final of the **FIDE World Women's Team Chess Championship at Sitges, Spain.**
- It was India's **first ever medal** in the world team chess championship.
- Russia has defeated India 2.5-1.5 and 3-1 to confidently triumph in both rounds of the finals & this victory is the second for Russia in the championship after its earlier win in 2017.

2021 World Wrestling Championships : Haryana's Anshu Malik becomes 1st Indian woman to win silver

- Indian wrestler **Anshu Malik** became the **first Indian woman wrestler** to win a **silver medal** after losing her 57kg final to 2016 Olympic champion **Helen Lousie Maroulis** 4-1 in the 2021 World Wrestling Championships.
- She is the **first female player from India** to claim a silver medal & also she is **second** from the country **after Sushil Kumar** to become a world champion.
- Meanwhile, **Sarita Mor** (became the fifth Indian woman) grabbed her maiden medal at the big stage by winning the 59kg **bronze**.
- Before this, Alka Tomar (2006) Geeta Phogat (2012), Babita Phogat (2012), Pooja Dhanda (2018) and Vinesh Phogat (2019) had won a bronze each.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

ISSF Junior World Championship: Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar bags silver in 50m rifle 3P mixed event

- Indian Shooters **Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar** and **Ayushi Podder** clinched **silver medals** in **50m Rifle 3 Positions Mixed Team** after losing 17-31 to Germany's Max Braun and Anna Janssen in the final at the ISSF Junior World Championship (ISSF) in **Lima, Peru**.

India sweeps 2021 FIH Hockey Star Awards

- For the first time ever, India swept the eight 2021 **International Hockey Federation's (FIH) annual Hockey Star Awards with drag-flickers Harmanpreet Singh and Gurjit Kaur** claiming the Player of the Year honours in men and women.
- However, world no. 1, Tokyo Olympics champions expressed disappointment over the voting system and the outcome of FIH Hockey Star Awards after none of their players won any award

Addl.Info:

- Player of the Year Award **Harmanpreet Singh Gurjit Kaur**
- Goalkeeper of the Year Award **PR Sreejesh Savita Punia**
- Rising Star of the Year Award **Vivek Sagar Prasad Sharmila Devi**
- The Best Coach Award **Graham Reid Sjoerd Marijne**

Valtteri Bottas wins Turkish Grand Prix

- On Oct 10, 2021, Mercedes-Finland driver **Valtteri Bottas** won the **F1 Turkish Grand Prix 2021** held at Istanbul Park in tuzla, **Istanbul**.
- Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** finished **second** & Red Bull team mate **Sergio Perez** finished **third**.
- Meanwhile **Lewis Hamilton** finished **fifth**.

India Won 3 Bronze Medals in 2021 Asian Table Tennis Championships in Doha, Qatar

- For the first time, **the Indian table tennis contingent has won 3 Bronze medals in the 2021 Asian Table Tennis Championship** organised by the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) at **Doha, Qatar** between 28th September and 5th October 2021.
- Two of the Three medals came from **Men's Doubles event, while the 3rd medal was won by the Indian Men's Team**.
- Medal Winning Teams: Indian Men's Team – **Sharath Kamal, Sathiyam Gnanasekaran and Harmeet Desai**
- Men's Doubles Team – **Sharath Kamal Achanta & Sathiyam Gnanasekaran** Men's Doubles Team – **Manav Thakkar & Harmeet Desai**
- Indian Men's Team composed of Sharath Kamal, Sathiyam Gnanasekaran and Harmeet Desai lost to the top seeded South Korean team in the Semi-final.
- Two Men's Doubles teams reached the semi-finals in the tournament for the 1st time. The Team of Sharath Kamal & Sathiyam Gnanasekaran was defeated in the semi-finals by Japan's Yukiya Uda & Shunsuke Togami in a 3-0 game.
- While the other team of Manav Thakkar & Harmeet Desai lost to South Korea's Woojin Jang & Jonghoon Lim in a close 3-2 match.

Addl.Info:

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Terms related to Table Tennis – Twiddle or Twirl, Sidespin, Backhand, Racket or Paddle, Chop

Top ranked Indians in ITTF World Ranking:

- Men's Singles – Sharath Kamal Achanta (33rd)
- Women's Singles – ManikaBatra (58th)

ISSF Junior World Championship: India wins total 43 medals including 17 Gold

- The **2021 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun** was held at **Lima** in **Peru** from **September 27 to October 10, 2021**.
- India has won **43 medals**, including **17 Gold, 16 Silver and 10 Bronze medals** to stand atop in the medal table.
- The **USA** finished second on the medal table with **21 medals** including **six gold, eight silver and six bronze** followed by Italy with 10 medals.

Top 3 in 2021 ISSF Junior World Championship:

1. India - 43 Medals (including 17 Gold, 16 Silver, 10 Bronze)
2. USA - 21 Medals (including 6 gold, 8 silver, 6 bronze)
3. Italy - 10 Medals (including 3 gold, 3 silver, 4 bronze)

Indian Shooters Won Gold in ISSF Junior World Championship :

1. Dhanush Srikanth, Rajpreet Singh, Paarth Makhija in 10m Air Rifle Team.
2. Aishwary Pratap Singh in the 80m 3P Individual event.
3. Sarabjot Singh, Naveen Naveen, Shiva Narwal in 10m Air Pistol Team.
4. Adarsh Singh, Vijayveer Sidhu, Anish Anish in the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Team.
5. Vinay Pratap Singh Chandrawat in Double Trap Grand Prix.
6. Vijayveer Sidhu in 25m Standard Pistol.
7. Arjun Singh Cheema in 50m Pistol.
8. Manu Bhaker in 10 m Air Pistol.
9. Manu Bhaker, Rhythm Sangwan, Shikha Narwal in 10m Air Pistol Team event.
10. Manu Bhaker, Rhythm Sangwan, Namya Kapoor in 25 Air Pistol.
11. Namya Kapoor in Air Pistol.
12. Ganemat Sekhon, Raiza Dhillon, Areeba Khan in Skeet Team.
13. Manvi Soni in the Double Trap Grand Prix.
14. Rhythm Sangwan in 25m Standard Pistol.
15. Shikha Narwal in 50m Pistol.
16. Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team.
17. Vijayveer Sidhu and Rhythm Sangwan in the 25m Pistol Mixed Team.

Indian Shooters who Won Silver in ISSF Junior World Championship

1. Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil in 10m Air Rifle
2. Adarsh Singh in 25m Rapid Fire Pistol

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

3. Bakhtyaruddin Mohamadmuzahid Malek, Shardul Vihan, Vivaan Kapoor in Men's Trap team.
4. Sehajpreet Singh in Double Trap Grand Prix.
5. Udhayveer Sidhu in 25m Standard Pistol.
6. Shaurya Sarin in the 50m Pistol.
7. Nisha Kanwar, Zeena Khitta, Atmika Gupta in 10m Air Rifle Women's Team Event.
8. Nischal, Prasiddhi Mahant, Ayushi Podder in 50m 3P Women's Team Event.
9. Esha Singh in the 10m Air Pistol.
10. Ganemat Sekhon in Skeet.
11. Yeshaya Hafiz Contractor in Double Trap Grand Prix.
12. Niveditha Veloor Nair in 25m Standard Pistol.
13. Esha Singh in 50m Pistol.
14. Atmika Gupta and Rajpreet Singh in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team Event.
15. Ayushi Podder and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar in 50m 3P Mixed Team Event.
16. Shikha Narwal and Naveen in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Event.

Indian Shooters who Won Bronze in ISSF Junior World Championship

1. Anish and Tejaswini in the 25m Pistol Mixed Team.
2. Navdeep Kaur in 50mPistol.
3. Naamya Kapoor in 25m Standard Pistol.
4. Hitasha in the Double Trap Grand Prix.
5. Manu Bhaker in 25m Air Pistol.
6. Ramita in the 10m Air Rifle.
7. Ajinkya Chavan in the 50m Pistol.
8. Harsh Gupta in 25 Standard Pistol.
9. Mayank Shokeen in Double Trap Grand Prix.
10. Rajveer Gill, Ayush Rudraraju, Abhay Singh Sekhon in Skeet Men's Team.

Note :

- **Manu Bhaker** created a milestone record of becoming the **first Indian shooter** to win the **highest number of medals in a single edition** of the ISSF Junior World Championships, with as many as five medals (including 4 gold medals and a bronze).

Divya Deshmukh becomes India's 21st Woman Grand Master

- Divya Deshmukh, a **15-year-old** from Nagpur, Maharashtra became the **21st Woman Grand Master (WGM)** of India **after qualifying in the 3rd WGM norm.**
- She attained these feet during the **"First Saturday Grand Master (GM)"** in Budapest, Hungary.
- During the tournament, **she also qualified for the 2nd norms of International Masters (IM)**, now there is only one norm ahead for her to qualify as an IM.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- Divya Deshmukh scored 5 points from 9 rounds during the tournament to secure the 3rd & final WGM-norm.
- In September 2021, R Raja Rithvik became the 70th Grandmaster of India.
- **Note** – Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi was India's 1st Women Grandmaster, while Viswanathan Anand became India's 1st Grandmaster in 1988.

Nagaland to host South Asian Cross Country Championship 2022

- Nagaland capital Kohima will host the South Asian Cross Country Championship on 15 th January 2022.
- While the 56th National Cross Country Championships which is also being hosted by Nagaland will be clubbed with the South Asian Federation Cross Country Championships.
- The training and capacity building would be led by federation's head coach and head coach of Team India (Athletics) at Tokyo Olympics P Radhakrishnan Nair.
- This will be perhaps the biggest ever international event to be hosted in Nagaland and it will bring athletes, officials and delegates from the entire South Asian convention to the state.

ICC & UNICEF to Partner For Mental Wellbeing of Children And Adolescents

- The ICC has partnered with UNICEF, has announced their partnership to raise awareness about the mental health issues and wellbeing amongst children and adolescents.
- Under this, ICC will promote the #OnYourMind campaign of UNICEF at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, beginning on October 17, 2021.
- The event is the biggest ever in the UAE and Oman comprises 45 matches across four venues and features cricket's biggest names and best teams.
- Through this initiative ICC will use its global platforms, including its broadcast and digital channels to support UNICEF's work.
- It will urge for greater commitment, connection and conversation around mental health and physical wellbeing.

Sisay Lemma and Joycline Jepkosgei wins London Marathon 2021

- Ethiopia's Sisay Lemma won the men's elite race in a time of 2 hours, 4 minutes and 1 second & Kenya's Joycline Jepkosgei won the women's race in a blistering 2:17.43 in London, United Kingdom.
- 2020 London Marathon winner Shura Kitata finished in sixth.
- Olympics 10,000m silver medallist Kalkidan Gezahegne set a new world record timing in 10k in 29 minutes 38 seconds.
- The wheelchair races were won by Marcel Hug and Manuela Schär, both of Switzerland, in 1:26:27 and 1:39:52, respectively.

India's Bhavani Devi wins Charlellville National Competition in France

- Ace Indian fencer Bhavani Devi has won the Women's Sabre Individual event at the Charlellville National Competition in France.
- She is currently ranked 50th in the world and is the top-ranked fencer from India.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

2021 BNP Paribas Open held in USA

- The **2021 BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament** was held from **October 04 to 17, 2021** at Indian Wells, California, USA.

Winners of 2021 BNP Paribas Open :

Category	Winners	Runners
Men's Singles	Cameron Norrie (United Kingdom)	Nikoloz Basilashvili (Georgia)
Women's singles	Paula Badosa (Spain)	Victoria Azarenka (Belarus)
Men's Doubles	John Peers Filip Polasek	Aslan Karatsev Andrey Rublev
Women's Doubles	Hsieh Su-wei Elise Mertens	Veronika Kudermetova Elena Rybakina

Note :

- The 2021 BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, also known as the 2021 Indian Wells Masters.

Rankings 2021:

- ATP rankings as of 18th October 2021, (rank 1) Novak Djokovic of Serbia tops the ranking followed by Daniil Medvedev (Russia) and Stefanos Tsitsipas(Greece) at rank 2 and 3 respectively.
- For the first time in around 5 years, Roger Federer of Switzerland has dropped out of the Top 10 in the ATP ranking.
- At present, he is ranked 11th in the ATP ranking.
- WTA Rankings as of 18th October 2021, Ashleigh Barty of Australia tops the ranking followed by Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus and Karolina Pliskova of Czechia at rank 2 and 3 respectively.

Indian Grandmaster Panneeselvam Iniyar wins La Nucia Open chess toumey in Spain

- The 19-year-old Indian Grandmaster **P Iniyar** won the **La Nucia Open chess tournament 2021** held in La Nucia, Spain.
- He scored an unbeaten **7.0/8** with GMs Andrey Sumets (Ukraine) and Rodrigo Vasquez Schroeder (Chile) but the Indian won the event on the basis of a better tie-break score.
- He won a trophy and €2500 (approx. ₹218,400) as a prize.
- This is Iniyar's **third over-the-board triumph** of the year since he won a double at Noisiel Open, fourth overall including online events.
- It was organized by the **Chess Federation of the Valencian Community**.

Indian GM Pragganandhaa won Julius Baer Challengers Chess Tour 2021

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

- The **16-year-old** Indian Grandmaster (GM) **Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa** has won the **Julius Baer Challengers Chess Tour 2021 finals after defeating Christopher Yoo of the USA** (United States of America).
- The event was launched by the **Play Magnus Group in April 2021** to give young chess stars a springboard to stardom during the pandemic.

Addl.Info:

- Praggnanandhaa has defeated Christopher Yoo by 3-0 in the final and won USD 12,500 and secured a regular spot at the 2022 Meltwater Champions Chess Tour.
- **24 talents from around, representing 13 countries** have participated in the chess tour.
- The Tour has also been nominated for a prestigious ESG Award for its work promoting gender equality.

Top 3 of FIDE (The International Chess Federation) Rankings:

- Carlsen, Magnus (Norway)
- Caruana, Fabiano (USA)
- Ding, Liren (China)

Indonesia and China won Thomas Cup and Uber Cup

Thomas Cup :

- **Indonesia** beat defending champion **China, 3-0**, to win the **Thomas Cup** final played at the **Ceres Arena in Aarhus, Denmark**.
- Japan and Denmark shared the bronze.
- This is the **14th Thomas Cup badminton title** for Indonesia and the first since 2002.

UBER Cup:

- In the **Uber Cup, China** beat defending champions **Japan 3-1**, to clinch their **15th Uber Cup trophy**.
- South Korea and Thailand shared bronze.

Note :

- The **2020 Thomas & Uber Cup** was the **31st** edition of the Thomas Cup and the **28th** edition of the Uber Cup.

Karnataka swimmer Ridhima Veerendrakumar bags gold medal in swimming

- **Karnataka swimmer Ridhima Veerendrakumar** won the **gold** medal in **50m backstroke** for group II girls in Bengaluru, a record-breaking performance at the **37th Sub Junior and 47th Junior National Championships**
- **Shalini Dixit** of **Karnataka** bagged the **silver** medal in this event while **Sri Nitya Sago** of **Telangana** took the **bronze** medal.
- Ridhima got off to a quick start and built on her lead with powerful strokes to clock 29.94 seconds to erase Maana Patel's record of 30.37 seconds created in 2014.

Viktor Axelsen and Akane Yamaguchi wins 2021 Denmark Open Title

- Olympic badminton champion **Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)** clinched the **2021 Denmark Open** after defeating **Momota Kento** of Japan in the final.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

List of winners of 2021 Denmark Open Title :

Category	Championship
Men's single	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) beat Kento Momota (Japan)
Women's single	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan) beat An Se-young (South Korea)
Men's double	Takuro Hoki, and Yugo Kobayashi (Japan) beat Kim Astrup (Denmark) Anders Skaarup Rasmussen
Women's double	Huang Dongping and Zheng Yu (China) beat Lee Sohee (South Korea) Shin Seungchan (South Korea)
Mixed double	Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino (Japan) beat Dechapol Puavaranukroh Sapsiree Taerattanachai

Max Verstappen wins 2021 United States Grand Prix

- On Oct 24, 2021, Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) won the 2021 United States Grand Prix.
- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) came second while Sergio Perez (Mexico- Red Bull) came third.

Note :

- This is the 8th win for Verstappen in this season.

Top 10 in 2021 United States Grand Prix :

- Max Verstappen (Red Bull)
- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)
- Sergio Perez (Red Bull)
- Charles Leclerc (Ferrari)
- Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren)
- Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes)
- Carlos Sainz (Ferrari)
- Lando Norris (McLaren)
- Yuki Tsunoda (AlphaTauri)
- Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin)

Yamaha's Fabio Quartararo becomes first Frenchman to win the 2021 MotoGP world championship

- Yamaha's Fabio Quartararo has become the first Frenchman to win the 2021 MotoGP world championship.
- The championship was held at the Misano World Circuit Marco Simoncelli in Misano Adriatico.
- Spanish rider Pol Espargaro finished the race in second place with Italian Enea Bastianini in third.
- The last nine titles have gone to Spanish riders with Marquez winning six championships, Yamaha's Jorge Lorenzo taking the title in 2012 and 2015 and Suzuki's Joan Mir in 2020.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

IUKL World Championship: Payal Kanodia, Anshu Tarvath win silver medals in Budapest

- In the International Union of Kettlebell Lifting (IUKL) World Championship, Anshu Taravath (58kg category) and Payal Kanodia (35-39 years, 68kg category) from Haryana clinched silver medals for India in Budapest, Hungary held from October 22-24.
- Both are trained under M3M Foundation, & the athletes competed with 450 athletes from 32 countries who participated in the tournament.

Revision Points


Organization	Headquarters	Head/CEO/MD/Founders
NASA	Washington, D.C., United States	Dwight D. Eisenhower
Piramal Group	Mumbai	Ajay Piramal
DHFL	Mumbai	Kapil Wadhawan
National Basketball Association	New York	Adam Silver
New Space India Limited	Bengaluru, Karnataka	G Narayanan
Coal India Limited	Kolkata	Pramod Agrawal
Railway Vikas Nigam Limited	New Delhi	Pradeep Gaur
IREDA	New Delhi	Pradip Kumar Das
North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited	Shillong	Vinod Kumar Singh
ESAF Small Finance Bank	Thrissur	Kadambelil Paul Thomas
AirAsia India	Sunil Bhaskaran	Bangalore, Karnataka
Starscapes Experiences Pvt Ltd	Gurgaon, Haryana	Paul Savio
UEFA	Nyon	Aleksander Čeferin
World Meteorological Organization	Geneva	Prof. Petteri Taalas
South Asian Football Federation	Dhaka	Kazi Salahuddin

Important Obituaries

Name	Field
Roger Hunt	Liverpool legend and England World Cup Winner
Professor Bala V Balachandran	Management guru and founder of the Great Lakes Institute of Management (GLIM)

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2021

Ghanshyam Nayak	Actor
Arvind Trivedi	Actor
Shakti Sinha	Private secretary to late prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee
Yesudasan	Kerala cartoonist
Abdul Qadeer Khan	Scientist/ Father of Pakistan's nuclear programme
Abolhassan Banisadr	Iran's first president
Vallilath Madhathil Madhavan Nair	Indian civil servant and diplomat
Martin J. Sherwin	Pulitzer-Winning Scholar and Navy Veteran
Nedumudi Venu	National award-winning Malayalam actor
Balvinder Singh Nakai	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) chairman
Satyajith	Veteran Kannada actor
Avi Barot	Cricketer- Saurashtra wicket-keeper
Bandula Warnapura	Sri Lanka's first Test skipper
Colin Powell	First black US Secretary of State
Saranjeet Singh	Former Hockey International
R.C. Vasanth Kumar	Former Tamil Nadu batter
Peter Scolari	Emmy-winning Actor
Roh Tae-woo	Ex-South Korean President
Dr M Krishnan Nair	Director of the S.U.T. Institute of Oncology, and Trivandrum Cancer Center
Puneeth Rajkumar	Kannada Actor



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