

## August Last Week Current Affairs

### National News

#### India virtually hosts the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of agriculture experts of BIMSTEC countries

- **India** hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of agriculture experts of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries for enhancing the engagement in agriculture and allied sectors amongst the BIMSTEC member states.

#### Smriti Irani inaugurates Poshan 2.0 and urges all districts across India to establish Poshan Vatika (nutrition garden)

- Union Minister for Women and Child Development **Smriti Irani** inaugurated **Poshan 2.0** and urged all aspirational districts of India to make a commitment to establish a Poshan Vatika (nutrition garden) during the nutrition month starting from 1 September for the protection of severe actual malnourished (SAM) children.

#### Union Home Minister launches the web portal for registration of units for industrial development in Jammu & Kashmir

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated web portal for registrations of units for industrial development under the 'New Central Sector Scheme 2021' for Jammu and Kashmir.
- This scheme offers four incentives, namely capital investment incentive, capital interest subvention, goods and service tax linked incentive (GSTLI) and working capital interest subvention.

#### IIT-Madras is set to develop an online platform named 'e-Source' to tackle e-waste

- **IIT-Madras** is developing an online platform called **e-Source** to tackle electronic wastes (e-waste) by linking stakeholders in the formal and informal economy.
- e-Source will be an exchange platform that will serve as an online marketplace for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and facilitate a formal supply chain between various stakeholders (buyers and sellers).

#### Central Board of Direct Taxes extends the deadline for payment under the 'Vivad Se Vishwas' Scheme

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) extended the deadline for the payment of amounts under the direct tax dispute resolution scheme 'Vivad Se Vishwas' without any additional charge from **31 August 2021 till 30 September 2021**.

#### Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT):

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

- **Founded:** 1963

## **Union Sports Minister launches the ‘Fit India’ mobile app on National Sports Day**

- Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur launched the **Fit India mobile app**, a personal trainer-cum-fitness guide, on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Fit India Movement.
- This app is a major tribute to the icon of Indian sports **Dhyan Chand**.
- This app is a must for sportspersons to stay fit and that they are expected to follow this app rigorously.

## **Smriti Irani addresses the first-ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women’s Empowerment virtually**

- The Union Minister of Women & Child Development **Smriti Irani** virtually addressed the first-ever **G20 Ministerial Conference on Women’s Empowerment**, which was held at Santa Margherita Ligure, **Italy**.
- The G20 Conference on Women Empowerment acknowledged the common objectives and shared responsibilities to advance the goals of equality and development of women and girls in all spheres, including STEM, financial and digital literacy, environment and sustainability.

## **Union Government extends the deadlines for e-filing of various forms under the Income Tax Act**

- The Union Ministry of Finance extended the deadlines for e-filing of various forms that come under the Income-Tax Act 1961, after taxpayers reported difficulties in filing these forms online.
- The application for registration or intimation or approval under various sections of the Income Tax Act in Form No. 10A required to be filed on or before 30 June, has been extended from **31 August 2021 to 31 March 2022**.

## **Union Finance Minister launches ‘My Pad, My Right’ project in Tripura**

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman officially launched the **‘My Pad, My Right’** pilot project funded by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) owned non-profit company NABFOUNDATION at Killa village in the Gomati district of Tripura.
- This project aims to bring livelihood and menstrual hygiene closer to rural women by way of grantswage support and capital equipment.
- Under this project, Self Help Groups are given one sanitary pad making machine, raw materials for two months, wages for 50 days, packaging materials for two months and other accessories and five days of training in three phases.
- Nirmala Sitharaman also flagged off a mobile ATM van of the Tripura State Cooperative Bank to mark the seventh anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.

### **Prime Minister Modi virtually inaugurates the renovated complex of the Jallianwala Bagh Memorial**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the renovated complex of **the Jallianwala Bagh Memorial in Amritsar, Punjab.**
- This memorial will serve as a reminder for future generations about the right of the people to peaceful democratic protest.

### **Union Minority Affairs Ministry organises ‘Mera Watan, Mera Chaman’ mushaira in New Delhi**

- Union Minority Affairs Ministry organised **‘Mera Watan, Mera Chaman’ mushaira** in New Delhi as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ celebrating 75 years of India’s Independence. The poets presented their poetry and couplets on the celebration of 75 years of India’s Independence while remembering the sacrifices made by the great freedom fighters.
- Mushaira and Kavi Sammelan are a part of the rich and glorious cultural legacy of and they strengthen the fabric of ‘Unity in Diversity’ and India’s culture of civility and etiquette.

### **Indian President Ram Nath Kovind lays the foundation stone for Uttar Pradesh’s AYUSH University in Gorakhpur**

- Indian President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone for the first AYUSH University of Uttar Pradesh, **Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath AYUSH Vishwavidyalaya**, at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- AYUSH systems of health care have been instrumental in increasing people’s immunity and fighting against the lethal COVID-19 second wave.

### **Union Labour Ministry launches a national database on unorganised workers named e-Shram portal in New Delhi**

- Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav launched the **e-Shram portal in New Delhi.** This portal is a national database on unorganised workers.
- This portal will keep track of workers in the unorganised sector and make it easier to implement various social security schemes that would benefit them.
- Every unorganised worker who registers on this platform would be covered by an accident insurance policy worth **Rs. 2 lakhs** in case of death or permanent disability and **Rs. 1 lakh** in case of partial disability.

### **NITI Aayog releases the North Eastern Region District Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index and Dashboard 2021-2022**

- **NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) released the first edition of the **North Eastern Region District Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index and Dashboard 2021–22.**

- This index offers insights into the social, economic and environmental status of the north eastern region and its districts in their march towards achieving the SDGs.
- East Sikkim was ranked first in the region, followed by Gomati and North Tripura in the second position.

### **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the second meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG)**

- The second meeting of **BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG)** was virtually hosted by Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** with Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das under the Indian BRICS Chairship.
- This meeting was scheduled to discuss and finalise key outcomes of the BRICS finance agenda for 2021.

### **NCDEX launches India's first agri commodities sectoral index 'GUAREX'**

- India's first sectoral index within the agri commodities basket named as **GUAREX** was launched by the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (**NCDEX**).
- NCDEX GUAREX is a price-based index tracking the price movement in the futures contracts of its underlying, i.e. Guar Seed and Guar Gum Refined Splits on a real-time basis.

#### **NCDEX:**

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **CEO:** Vijay Kumar Venkataraman
- **Founded:** 15 December 2003

### **India was elected to the Council of Administration at the 27<sup>th</sup> UPU Congress in Ivory Coast**

- **India** was elected to the Council of Administration (CA) at the **27<sup>th</sup> Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress** in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.
- India was also elected with 106 votes out of 156 countries to the Postal Operations Council (POC) at the 27<sup>th</sup> UPU Congress in Abidjan.

#### **Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire):**

- **Capital:** Yamoussoukro (Administrative Capital), Abidjan (Economic Capital)
- **Currency:** West African CFA franc
- **Prime Minister:** Patrick Achi
- **President:** Alassane Ouattara

### World's highest motorable road was inaugurated in Ladakh

- The world's highest motorable road that connects **Leh** and the **Pangong Lake** was launched by **Ladakh** MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal. The road passes through the Kela Pass at 18,600 feet.

### Ladakh

- **Capital:** Leh
- **Lieutenant Governor:** Radha Krishna Mathur

### Goa becomes the first state in India to provide free water to the people

- Goa became the first state in India to supply water free of cost to its citizens.
- Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched the '**Save Water, Get Free Water**' programme under which households will not be charged for consumption up to 16,000 litres.

### Goa

- **Capital:** Panaji
- **Chief Minister:** Pramod Sawant
- **Governor:** P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- **National Park:** Mollem National Park

### Kendrapara district in Odisha becomes the first district in India to have all three crocodile species

- Odisha's **Kendrapara district** became the only district in India where all three species of crocodiles — salt-water, gharial and mugger are found.

### Odisha

- **Capital:** Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister:** Naveen Patnaik
- **Governor:** Ganeshi Lal
- **Festivals:** Dhanu Yatra, Budi Thakurani Yatra, Magha Saptami, Chhau, Dola Purnima
- **Lakes:** Kanjia Lake, Chilika Lake, Ansupa Lake, Pata Lake
- **Folk Dances:** Chhau, Gotipua, Ghumura, Ranappa, Chaiti Ghoda, Sambalpuri
- **Dams:** Hirakud dam, Indravati dam, Rengali dam, Jalaput dam, Mandira dam, Patora dam
- **National Parks:** Bhitarkanika National Park, Simlipal National Park

### Haryana Government announces cash rewards of Rs. 6 crores and Rs. 4 crores for Sumit Antil and Yogesh Kathuniya

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced a cash reward of **Rs. 6 crores** and a government job for **Sumit Antil**, who won a gold medal and set a world record in the javelin throw at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- He also declared a cash reward of **Rs. 4 crores** for **Yogesh Kathuniya** for winning the silver medal in the discus throw (F56) event at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.

### World's highest altitude movie theatre was opened in Ladakh

- **Ladakh** received its first mobile digital movie theatre at an altitude of **11,562 feet** in the Paldan area of Leh, which makes it the highest theatre in the world.
- This theatre was introduced to bring cinema watching experience to most of the remote areas of Ladakh.

### Odisha Government approves Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy 2021 and targets 20 per cent electric vehicles on the road by 2025

- The Odisha Cabinet, headed by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, approved the **Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy 2021**, which aims to promote the use of electric vehicles.
- The objective of this policy is to reduce emissions caused by the use of traditional fossil fuel-run vehicles and promote the manufacture of electric vehicles.

### Odisha

- **Capital:** Bhubaneswar
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### Uttar Pradesh Government is set to build first handicrafts park in UP

- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, is constructing Uttar Pradesh's **first handicrafts park** in Sector 29 of **Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA)**.
- This park near Jewar airport will feature handicrafts from all over India and soon become the most prominent place for artisans and craftsmen.

### Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital:** Lucknow

- **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel

### **Punjab Government launches the ‘Mera Kaam Mera Maan’ Scheme to help unemployed youth**

- The Punjab Cabinet, chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, approved a new innovative initiative known as ‘**Mera Kaam Mera Maan**’ (MKMM) to help unemployed youth improve their skills and employability in their chosen field.
- This scheme provides an employment assistance allowance of Rs. 2500 per month for a period of 12 months from the start of the training course under the short-term skill training programmes in the Punjab Skill Development Mission training centres.

### **Punjab**

- **Capital:** Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister:** Captain Amarinder Singh
- **Governor:** P. Singh Badnore

### **New Delhi ranks first among the most surveilled cities**

- According to the **Forbes India report**, **New Delhi** ranks first among the most surveilled cities in the world with 1,826.6 cameras per square mile, while Chennai which has 609.9 cameras per square miles ranks third in the world. **London** ranks second and **Mumbai** ranks 18.

### **New Delhi**

- **Chief Minister:** Arvind Kejriwal
- **Governor:** Anil Baijal

### **Banking & Economy**

#### **PFDRDA increases maximum age for joining the National Pension Scheme (NPS)**

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) revised the existing age of entry into **the National Pension Scheme (NPS)** from existing **18–65 years to 18–70 years** with no cap on the maximum investment limit.
- The yearly investment amount is flexible, with the lowest investment amount being **Rs. 8000** per annum.

#### **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 2003
- **Chairman:** Supratim Bandyopadhyay

### PayU acquires BillDesk for \$4.7 billion to move from cash to digital transactions

- Prosus NV's **PayU** acquired Indian payment services provider **BillDesk** for \$4.7 billion to create a leading digital payments company in India and globally.
- PayU is exceptionally well-positioned to expand deeper into the Indian fintech ecosystem as more and more Indian customers move from cash to digital transactions

### PayU

- **Headquarters:** The Netherlands
- **Founded:** 2002

### Sri Lanka receives \$787 million special drawing rights (SDR) allocation from IMF and \$150 million currency swap from Bangladesh Central Bank

- **Sri Lanka** received **\$787 million** from the **International Monetary Fund's (IMF)** special drawing rights (SDR) allocation and **\$150 million** from **Bangladesh Central Bank** as a currency swap arrangement, boosting the island nation's depleting foreign exchange reserves.

### International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- **Headquarters:** Washington D.C., USA
- **Managing Director:** Kristalina Georgieva
- **Chief Economist:** Gita Gopinath

### ICICI Bank becomes the second lender after HDFC Bank to cross Rs. 5 trillion in market capitalization

- The **Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank Limited** has crossed **Rs. 5 trillion** in market capitalisation (m-cap). ICICI Bank became the second lender after Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Bank and the seventh Indian firm to achieve this landmark market capitalisation.

### ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **MD and CEO:** Sandeep Bakhshi
- **Tagline:** Hum Hai Na, Khyal Apka

### PhonePe receives an insurance broking license from IRDAI

- **PhonePe** received an insurance broking license from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** to sell life and general insurance covers.
- With this new new broking license, PhonePe will be able to give customised product recommendations to its over 300 million users, as well as a significantly broader range of insurance products to Indian consumers.

## PhonePe

- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru
- **Founded:** 1 December 2015

## RBI hikes the per transaction remittance limit of India to Nepal from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2 lakhs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hiked the per transaction limit of **the Indo-Nepal remittance facility to 2 lakhs from Rs. 50,000** and removed the cap of **12** remittances per year to facilitate retirement and pension-related payments to ex-servicemen settled in Nepal.

## Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Formation:** 1 April 1935
- **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das
- **Deputy Governors:** K. Jain, M. D. Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao and T. Rabi Sankar
- **Subsidiaries:** Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Limited (BRBNML)

## RBI permits card-tokenisation services to make card transactions safer

- In order to make card **transactions more safe**, secure and convenient for customers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed authorised card networks to offer **card tokenisation services** to any token requestor.
- RBI decided to extend the scope of tokenisation to include consumer devices – laptops, desktops, wearables (wristwatches, bands, etc.) and Internet of Things (IoT) devices.

## Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Formation:** 1 April 1935
- **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das
- **Deputy Governors:** M. K. Jain, M. D. Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao and T. Rabi Sankar
- **Subsidiaries:** Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Limited (BRBNML)

## Tamil Nadu Government received the first approval from SIDBI under SCDF

- The **Tamil Nadu Government** has received the first approval under the **SIDBI Cluster Growth Fund (SCDF)** from the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to upgrade various existing MSME clusters and to develop new industrial infrastructural facilities in Tamil Nadu.

## Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

- **Headquarters:** Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD):** Sivasubramanian Ramann

## BharatPe launches '12% Club' app

- **BharatPe** is expanding its consumer services portfolio by entering the **peer-to-peer (P2P)** lending market with the launch of its product '**12% Club**' app to allow its customers to earn 12% on their investments as well as borrow funds at 12% interest.
- Consumers on the 12% Club app can invest their savings anytime by choosing to lend money through BharatPe's partner P2P NBFCs and also can avail collateral-free loans of up to **Rs. 10 lakhs** for a tenure of 3 months as per their convenience.

## BharatPe:

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1 April 2018

## Agreements and MoUs signed

### Axis Bank ties up with BharatPe on point-of-sale (PoS) devices

- **Axis Bank** has tied up with **BharatPe** to expand its merchant acquiring business in India.
- Axis Bank will act as the acquiring bank for BharatPe's point-of-sale (PoS) business, BharatSwipe and will provide acceptance of credit and debit cards for merchants associated with BharatPe.

### Max Life Insurance partners with BillDesk to enable safe premium payments

- **Max Life Insurance Company Limited**, in partnership with **BillDesk**, has enabled a **safe and secure e-mandate process on premium payments** for its customers.
- Max Life Insurance Company became the first life insurer to extend the facility of e-mandate for recurring premium payment options to its customers.

## Appointments

### Union Government extends the tenure of Bank of India executive director P. R. Rajagopal for two years

- The Union Government extended the term of Bank of India's executive director **P. R. Rajagopal** by **two** years. His current term was to expire on 28 February 2022.

## Bank of India

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Tagline:** Relationships Beyond Banking

## Dentsu India's CEO Anand Bhadkamkar steps down

- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Dentsu India, **Anand Bhadkamkar**, had resigned from the company.
- He joined Dentsu India in 2008.

## HSBC India appoints Rajnish Kumar as its independent director

- Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) India appointed the former Chairman of State Bank of India, **Rajnish Kumar**, as its independent non-executive director.

## Jammu and Kashmir High High Court Bar Association elects M. K. Bhardwaj as its President of Jammu branch

- Advocate **K. Bhardwaj** was elected as the President of the Jammu branch of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association.
- Mohinder Pal Singh was elected as the Vice-President Surjeet Singh Andotra as the General Secretary, Aditya Sharma as the Joint Secretary and Amandeep Singh as as the Treasurer of the Jammu branch

## UCO Bank's MD & CEO Atul Kumar Goel gets an extension of two years

- The Union Government extended the term of UCO Bank's MD and CEO, **Atul Kumar Goel**, for two years.
- His current term was to expire on 1 November 2021.

## Reserve Bank of India appoints Ajay Kumar as its Executive Director

- The Reserve Bank of India appointed **Ajay Kumar** as its Executive Director.
- He was the Regional Director of the RBI's New Delhi Regional Office before being promoted as Executive Director. The Reserve Bank of India now has 13 Executive Directors.

## Union Health Minister takes charge as Chairman of the Stop TB Partnership Board

- Union Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** took charge as the **Chairperson of the Stop TB Partnership Board** until 2024.
- He will lead the Stop TB Partnership Secretariat, partners and the community in achieving the TB target by 2022 with the effort of eliminating tuberculosis by 2030.

## Carol Furtado was appointed as an Officer on Special Duty of the Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** appointed **Carol Furtado** as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) of the bank after the resignation of Nitin Chugh.

- After Nitin Chugh vacates office on 30 September 2021, Carol Furtado will take charge as the interim CEO, subject to RBI approval.

### Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

- **Headquarters:** Bangalore

### Sonu Sood becomes the brand ambassador for ‘Desh Ke Mentor’ initiative

- Actor **Sonu Sood** will serve as the brand ambassador for the Delhi Government’s ‘**Desh Ke Mentor**’ programme, which will help youngsters make professional decisions.
- Sonu Sood shared his journey of setting up an online job portal ‘Pravasi Rojagar’ that offered jobs to migrant labourers.

### Awards and Recognitions

#### Times Group announces Times Excellence Awards 2021

- Times Excellence Awards was created by OMS (Times Group) to identify, encourage and provide recognition to young entrepreneurs, leaders and innovators who have been game-changers in a true sense.

The winners of the Times Excellence Awards 2021 are:

1. Viraj Kohli
2. Sarbajit Das
3. Vijay Arora
4. Braj Bushan Jha
5. Sabarna Roy
6. Amit Kumar Gehlot

#### COVID-19 by UK experts study sets a Guinness world record for the world’s largest scientific collaboration

- A worldwide COVID-19 study led by UK experts and conducted at Indian hospitals among others around

#### Union Finance Minister unveils the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Public Sector Bank (PSBs) Reforms Agenda – EASE 4.0

- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled the **fourth edition of the Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda ‘EASE 4.0’ for 2021-22** in Mumbai.
- She announced the best-performing banks on the EASE 3.0 Banking Reforms Index.

#### EASE 3.0 Index Awards

- The top 3 banks in the EASE 3.0 Index are:

## SALEM INSTITUTE OF BANKING

1. State Bank of India
2. Bank of Baroda
3. Union Bank of India

- The top 3 banks in improvement from March baseline are:

1. Indian Bank
2. Union Bank of India
3. Punjab National Bank

- Theme based

S.No	Theme	Winner
1	Smart lending for aspiring india (from large PSBs)	Bank of Baroda
2	Tech-enabled ease of banking	State Bank of India
3	Institutionalising prudent banking	Bank of Baroda
4	Governance and outcome centric HR	Union Bank of India
5	protection	Union Bank of India

### Key Initiatives of EASE 4.0:

- Smart lending
- Dial-a-loan
- Credit@click
- 24×7 banking with resilient technology
- Process automation
- Cloud-based IT systems
- Data-enabled agricultural financing
- Co-lending with NBFCs
- Doorstep banking services

### Books & Authors

#### K. J. Alphons releases his new book titled ‘Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government’

- Former Union Minister **K. J. Alphons** presented his book titled ‘Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government’ to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### Defence News

#### Indian Navy takes part part in the Maritime Partnership Exercise with the Algerian Navy

- Indian navy ship **INS Tabar** took part in the maiden Maritime Partnership Exercise with the Algerian Navy to share a close cooperation on the issue of defence and security, space, counter-terrorism, education and others.

### **China, Pakistan, Mongolia and Thailand militaries are set to take part in ‘Shared Destiny 2021’ military exercise**

- The militaries of **China, Pakistan, Mongolia and Thailand** will take part in a multinational peacekeeping exercise named ‘Shared Destiny 2021’.
- The aim of this exercise is joint operations of multinational peacekeeping forces. The exercise will be held in a close-to-real battlefield environment set in accordance with the international, professional and realistic combat standards.

### **Science & Technology**

#### **NITI Aayog and Cisco jointly launches women entrepreneurship platform ‘WEP Nxt’**

- **NITI Aayog** and **Cisco** jointly launched the next phase of the women entrepreneurship platform (WEP) ‘**WEP Nxt**’ to build on their shared commitment to empower women entrepreneurs across India.
- WEP Nxt will be the next phase of NITI Aayog’s flagship initiative to enable more women-owned businesses across India.
- This platform will aim to address the most urgent needs of the women entrepreneurs across six key verticals:
  - Community and networking
  - Skilling and mentorship
  - Incubation and acceleration programs
  - Financial
  - Compliance
  - Marketing assistance

#### **National Dairy Development Board launches e-GOPALA and IMAP web portals**

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying **Parshottam Rupala** launched the Anand-based National Dairy Development Board’s (NDDB) web version of the **e-GOPALA application and IMAP web portal**, which provides real-time information to dairy farmers for better productivity of milk-producing animals.

### **Sports News**

#### **Dale Steyn announces retirement from all forms of cricket**

- South Africa’s legendary pace bowler **Dale Steyn** announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

#### **Mariyappan Thangavelu and Sharad Kumar win silver and bronze medals in high jump event at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020**

- **Mariyappan Thangavelu** and **Sharad Kumar** won India’s ninth and tenth medals of the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics, bagging silver and bronze medals in the high jump (T63) event.

### India's Sumit Antil wins gold medal in the javelin throw at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020

- Indian para javelin thrower **Sumit Antil** clinched India's second **gold medal** in the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 by winning the **men's javelin throw F64 event**.

### Indian boxers win six gold medals at the Asian Youth Championships 2021

- Indian boxers dominated the Asian Youth Championships 2021, clinching six gold medals along with nine silver and five bronze medals in the event.
- **Bishwamitra Chongtham (51 kg)** and **Vishal(80 kg)** clinched gold medals in the men's category at the 2021 Asian Youth & Junior Boxing Championships held in Dubai. **Preeti Dahiya (60 kg), Sneha Kumari (66 kg), Khushi (75 kg) and Neha (54 kg)** in the women's category are the other gold medallists.
- **Indian para shooter Singhraj Adhana wins a bronze medal in men's 10 m air pistol at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020**
- **Singhraj Adhana** won a bronze medal in the P1 men's 10 m air pistol (SH1) event at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.

### Indian cricketer Stuart Binny announces retirement from first-class and international cricket

- Indian cricketer **Stuart Binny** announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- The Indian all-rounder had batted brilliantly during the first Test of India's 2014 tour of England at the Trent Bridge in Nottingham.

### Bhavina Patel, Nishad Kumar and Vinod Kumar win medals at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020

- **Bhavina Patel** won India's first medal at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 and the 13<sup>th</sup> She bagged the silver medal as she lost to World No. 1 Ying Zhou of China in the final of the class 4 women's singles table tennis.
- India's **Nishad Kumar** clinched a silver medal in the men's high jump (T47) event in the Tokyo Paralympics 2020. India's **Vinod Kumar** won the bronze medal in the men's discus throw (F52) event at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.

### Avani Lekhara wins gold medal, Yogesh Kathuniya & Devendra Jhajharia bags silver and Sundar Gurjar clinches bronze in the Tokyo Paralympics 2020

- **Avani Lekhara** clinched the gold medal and equalled the world record in the women's (R2) 10 m air rifle standing SH1 event at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- **Yogesh Kathuniya** bagged the silver medal in the men's discus throw (F56) event at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- **Devendra Jhajharia** won the silver medal as **Sundar Singh Gurjar** bagged the bronze medal in the men's javelin throw (F46) final at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.

## Tokyo Paralympics 2020 (Indian Winners)

Name of the Person	Event	Medal
Bhavina Patel	Table Tennis	Silver
Nishad Kumar	High Jump	Silver
Vinod Kumar	Men's Discus Throw F52	Bronze
Avani Lekhara	Women's 10 m Air Rifle Standing SH1	Gold
Yogesh Kathunia	F56 event of discus throw	Silver
Devendra Jhajharia	F46 category of Javelin Throw	Silver
Sundar Gurjar	F46 category of Javelin Throw	Bronze

## Max Verstappen won the F1 Belgian Grand Prix 2021

- Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** emerged as the winner of the **F1 Belgian Grand Prix 2021** with Williams' George Russell second and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton in the third place.

## Important Days

### National Nutrition Week (India) – 1–7 September

- The **National Nutrition Week** is observed from **1–7 September** in India to raise public awareness about vital indicators of their well-being and prosperity.
- The theme of the 2021 National Nutrition Week (India) is **'feeding smart right from start'**.

### National Sports Day – 29 August

- National Sports Day** is observed on **29 August** each year to encourage more people to participate in physical activities.
- Major Dhyan Chand, widely known as the "Hockey Wizard" and "The Magician", was born on 29 August 1905 and National Sports Day is marked to celebrate his birthday.

### International Day against Nuclear Tests – 29 August

- The **International Day against Nuclear Tests** is observed on **29 August** every year for increasing awareness and education about the results of the weapon of mass destruction test explosions or other nuclear explosions.

## National Small Industry Day – 30 August

- The **National Small Industry Day** is observed on **30 August** every year to promote small industries across India.

## International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances – 30 August

- The United Nations (UN) observes **International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances** on **30 August** every year to honour and pay tribute to people who have faced enforced disappearances.

## Obituary

### Renowned leprologist Shaik Khader Noordeen passed away

- **Shaik Khader Noordeen**, a renowned leprologist from Chennai, passed away at the age of 88.
- He was instrumental in the passage of World Health Assembly Resolution 44.9, which reiterated WHO's commitment to eliminate leprosy as a public health problem globally by the year 2000.

### Chennai-based surgeon Selvarangan passed away at 90

- **Surgeon** and founding father of Selvarangam Hospital, **A. B. Selvarangan** passed away in Chennai as a result of age-related illness at the age of 90.

### Veteran coach and former Mumbai cricketer Vasu Paranjape passed away at 82

- Former Mumbai cricketer and coach **Vasudeo Paranjape** passed away at the age of 82.
- He was the captain of a very strong Dadar Union side that boasted of names like Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, along with club legends like Vithal 'Marshal' Patil.

### Bengali writer Buddhadeb Guha passed away at 85

- Eminent Bengali writer **Buddhadeb Guha**, author of many notable works such as 'Madhukari' (Honey Gatherer), passed away at the age of 85 after a massive cardiac arrest.