

August 4th Week Current Affairs

National News

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister announces Rs. 1300 crores for the development of health infrastructure of Northeastern states

- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced a package of **Rs. 1300 crores** for the infrastructure development in the health sector of Northeastern states.

Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology launches 'Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge 2021'

- Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the '**Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge-2021**' to encourage technology solutions developed by women entrepreneurs that facilitate women's safety and empowerment.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry virtually chairs the 5th edition of the BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry **Piyush Goyal** virtually chaired the **5th edition of the BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting**.
- The Industry Ministers of Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa attended the meeting.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited launches the AI-enabled chatbot 'Urja'

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** launched a digital assistant named '**Urja**' with AI/NLP (Artificial Intelligence/Natural Language Processing) Urja is skilled in greater than 600 use instances.
- This digital assistant is designed to ship seamless self-service expertise and allow quicker decisions of client queries/points.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL):

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1928

Union Cabinet approves Rs. 11,040 crores to increase the production of edible oils in India

- The Union Cabinet approved the **National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)** with a financial outlay of **11,040 crores** to increase the production of edible oils in India.
- Out of the financial outlay of Rs. 11,040 crores, **8844 crores** is the share of the Union Government and **Rs. 2196 crores** is the share of the states, including the viability gap funding.

Stadium at Pune's Army Sports Institute is set to be named after Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra

- A stadium in the premises of the **Army Sports Institute in Pune** is to be named after Tokyo Olympics gold medalist **Neeraj Chopra**.
- The stadium will be named as '**Neeraj Chopra Army Sports Stadium**' in Pune Cantonment.

Union Government forms a panel for doubling production and quadrupling the exports of handlooms in 3 years

- Union Government constituted a committee headed by **Sunil Sethi** for doubling the production and quadrupling the exports of handlooms in a span of three years.

Union Finance Minister launches Ubharte Sitaare Fund in Lucknow for export-oriented firms and startups

- The **Ubharte Sitaare Fund (USF)** for export-oriented small and mid-sized firms and startups was launched in **Lucknow** by Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**.
- This fund aims at arranging funds for the **promotion of micro, small and medium companies**. It has been set up by **EXIM Bank** and **Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**

Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting observes Iconic Week from 23 August to 29 August

- Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting launched a gamut of activities to celebrate Iconic week as a part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** from 23–29 August 2021.
- The objective is to showcase the journey of New India and celebrate the contribution of freedom fighters, including the 'unsung heroes' of the freedom struggle, through massive outreach activities.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches the National Monetisation Pipeline

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a **four-year National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** worth **Rs. 6 lakh crores** which outlines how the Union Government plans to sell infrastructure assets and raise funds from **2021-22 to 2024-25**.
- This pipeline will include only the brownfield assets owned by the Union Government but not include the land assets of the Union Government.
- Assets in the road, rail and electricity sectors will account for more than 66 per cent of the total projected value of the assets to be monetised, with the rest coming from telecom, mining, aviation, ports, natural gas and petroleum product pipelines, warehouses and stadiums.

Union Government launches Yuktdhara portal for geospatial planning

- The Union Government launched a new geospatial planning portal named '**Yuktdhara**' that aid in the facilitation of new Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Gurantee

Act (MGNREGA) assets utilising remote sensing and geographic information system (GIS)–based data.

- This portal was launched by the Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj **Giriraj Singh**.

Union Government launches Amrit Mahotsav App Innovation Challenge 2021 for Indian entrepreneurs and startups

- The Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology **Rajeev Chandrasekhar** launched **Amrit Mahotsav App Innovation Challenge 2021** for Indian entrepreneurs and startups.
- This innovation challenge was launched in 16 categories, including culture and heritage, education, news, health, social media, skills, games, agriculture, business and retail, fintech and others.

Vice President of India launches Vaccinate India Programme in Bengaluru

- Indian Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu launched the **Vaccinate India Programme** in **Bengaluru**, which is being organised by the Planning, Program Implementation and Statistics Department, along with the Sustainable Goals Center and the Give India Foundation.
- This programme aims at educating the masses about the necessity to vaccinate and clear misconceptions.

Union Government launches major initiatives of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virender Kumar launched various initiatives of **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** to make education more inclusive and prepare students for the 21st century.
- A booklet on one-year achievements of the National Education Policy Implementation, National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy Bharat Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) tools and Alternate Academic Calendar 2021–22 of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) were also launched.

Indian National Security Advisor virtually hosts the 11th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security

- Indian National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval** virtually hosted the 11th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security for the exchange of views on political and security issues among BRICS countries.
- India holds the Chairmanship of BRICS this year (2021), which coincides with the 15th anniversary of the BRICS grouping.

NCL becomes the first public sector unit to vaccinate its entire workforce against COVID-19

- **Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)**, a subsidiary of Coal India, became the first public sector unit (PSU) in India to vaccinate all of its employees and their family members against COVID-19.

Northern Coalfields Limited

- Headquarters: Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh

State News

Chhattisgarh Government launches a new scheme to support rural landless labourers

- **Chhattisgarh Government** launched the ‘**Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana**’ with a provision of **Rs. 200 crores** benefiting 12 lakh landless families.
- The aim of this scheme is to support rural landless labourers with minimum wages so that they can access basic amenities. The beneficiaries of this scheme are expected to receive their benefits before the end of this financial year on **31 March 2022**
- The families of the beneficiaries will get an amount of **Rs. 6000** annually.

Chhattisgarh

- **Capital:** Raipur
- **Chief Minister:** Bhupesh Baghel
- **Governor:** Sushri Anusuiya Uikey

Jammu and Kashmir Government unveils Karkhandar Scheme to uplift traditional handicrafts

- The **Jammu and Kashmir Government** issued orders for giving a fresh impetus to the training in the handicraft sector in the Union Territory by unveiling the ‘**KARKHANDAR**’ Scheme for the upliftment of artisans and weavers through training.

Jammu and Kashmir

- **Capital:** Srinagar (Summer), Jammu (Winter)
- **Lt. Governor:** Manoj Sinha
- **National Parks:** Hemis National Park, City Forest (Salim Ali) National Park, Dachigam National Park, Kishtwar National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary, Baltal-Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary, Karakoram (Nubra Shyok) Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Lakes:** Mansar Lake, Nagin Lake, Wular Lake, Surinsar Lake, Dal Lake

Tamil Nadu Government forms a seven-member committee for the study of hydrocarbon projects

- The Tamil Nadu Government has constituted a **seven-member committee** led by **Sultan Ahmed Ismail** to study the exploration of **hydrocarbon projects**.
- This committee will also study whether drilling would have an impact on the land as well as destabilises the tectonic plates below the area of exploration.

Tamil Nadu

- **Capital:** Chennai
- **Chief Minister:** M. K. Stalin
- **Governor:** Banwarilal Purohit
- **National Parks:** Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Indira Gandhi (Annamalai) National Park, Mudumalai National Park

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited signs a loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank

- **Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL)** signed a loan agreement with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** for **\$500 million** (about Rs. 3643 crores) for the Outer Ring Road-Airport line.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- **Founded:** 19 December 1966
- **Headquarters:** Mandaluyong, Philippines
- **President:** Masatsugu Asakawa

Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation was declared as a 'water plus' city

- **Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC)** was declared as a **'water plus'** city from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- Water plus certification is the next stage of Open Defecation Free (ODF++) given for liquid waste management.

India's highest altitude herbal park was inaugurated at Uttarakhand

- India's **highest altitude herbal park** situated at a height of 11,000 feet was inaugurated at **Mana village** close to the Indo-China border in **Uttarakhand's** Chamoli district.
- The herbal park has around 40 species found in high-altitude alpine areas in the Himalayan region.

Uttarakhand

- **Capital:** Dehradun
- **Chief Minister:** Pushkar Singh Dhami
- **Governor:** Baby Rani Maurya

- **National Parks:** Corbett National Park, Gangotri National Park, Govind Pashu Vihar National Park, Nanda Devi National Park, Rajaji National Park, Valley of Flowers National Park

Uttar Pradesh Government launches Phase 3 of Mission Shakti Abhiyan to promote safety, respect and self-reliance for women

- The Uttar Pradesh Government launched the third phase of 'Mission Shakti' with an aim to promote safety, respect and self-reliance for women.
- The third phase of this programme will end on **31 December**. The main schemes that are scheduled to be implemented in this phase are the launch of '**Mission Shakti Kaksha**' (classrooms) at all the 59,000 gram panchayat bhawans (village panchayat buildings) and the formation of one lakh women self-help groups.

Uttar Pradesh

- Capital: Lucknow
- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- National Park: Dudhwa National Park (Tiger Reserve)
- Zoological Parks: Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Prani Udyan (Gorakhpur Zoological Garden), Kanpur Zoological Park, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation launches '10 mins at 10 am' campaign to control the diseases caused by mosquitoes

- The **Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation** (GHMC) launched a campaign named '10 mins at 10 am' to control **mosquito breeding** and prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases like dengue and chikungunya.
- This campaign will continue for ten weeks.

Manipur Chief Minister launches Livelihood Support Scheme

- Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launched COVID-19 affected **Livelihood Support Scheme** to assist those who had been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Manipur.

Manipur

- **Capital:** Imphal
- **Chief Minister:** Biren Singh
- **Governor:** La. Ganesan

Delhi Chief Minister inaugurates India's first-ever smog tower

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated **India's first smog tower** in **Delhi's Connaught Place** with an aim to improve air quality in a radius of around 1 km.

- The smog tower will purify 1,000 cubic metres of air per second within a radius of around 1 km and reduce PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels in Delhi.

New Delhi

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

Uttar Pradesh Government to name roads of 6 districts after former UP CM Kalyan Singh

- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** announced that one road will be named after former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Kalyan Singh** in each of the state's six districts, namely Lucknow, Ayodhya, Aligarh, Etah, Bulandshahr and Prayagraj.

Uttar Pradesh

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

Three cities in Andhra Pradesh were awarded the 'water plus' tag

- The **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** awarded three cities in **Andhra Pradesh** out of nine cities across India with '**water plus**' tag certification.
- The certified municipal corporations of Andhra Pradesh are Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation and Tirupati Municipal Corporation.

Andhra Pradesh

- **Capital:** Amaravati
- **Chief Minister:** Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy
- **Governor:** Biswa Bhushan Harichandan
- **Folk Dances:** Kuchipudi, Vilasini Natyam, Bhamakalpam, Veeranatyam
- **National Parks:** Sri Venkateswara National Park, Rajiv Gandhi National Park, Papikonda National Park

Telangana Government releases an additional Rs. 500 crores for the implementation of the DalitBandhu Scheme

- The **Telangana Government** released an additional **Rs. 500 crores** for the implementation of the pilot project of the ambitious Dalit Bandhu Scheme, bringing the total allocation to **Rs. 1000 crores**.
- This scheme provides Dalit families with financial support of **Rs. 10 lakhs** to start self-employment projects.

Telangana

- **Capital:** Hyderabad
- **Chief Minister:** Chandrashekar Rao
- **Governor:** Tamilisai Soundararajan
- **National Parks:** KasuBrahmananda Reddy National Park, Mahaveer Harina National Park, Mrugavani National Park

Tamparam and Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu becomes municipal corporations

- According to an announcement made by the Tamil Nadu Municipal Administration Minister K.N. Nehru, Tamparam, Kancheepuram, Kumbakonam, Karur, Cuddalore, and Sivakasi municipalities would be promoted to municipal corporations

Tamil Nadu

- **Capital:** Chennai
- **Chief Minister:** M.K. Stalin
- **Governor:** Banwarilal Purohit
- **National Parks:** Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Indira Gandhi (Annamalai) National Park, Mudumalai National Park

Surat Municipal Corporation launches 'Knock the Door' campaign

- **Surat Municipal Corporation** launched the '**Knock the Door**' campaign to spread awareness about **COVID-19 vaccination** and to emphasise the importance of the second dose of vaccination amid a low turnout of second dose beneficiaries in Surat.

Gujarat

- **Capital:** Gandhinagar
- **Chief Minister:** Vijay Rupani
- **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat
- **National Parks:** Blackbuck National Park, Vansda National Park, Gir National Park, Marine National Park(Gulf of Kachchh)

Uttar Pradesh Government receives Rs. 5100 crore loan from PNB

- The Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) received the sanction letter for a securitisation-based loan of **Rs. 5100 crores** from **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** for the implementation of the **Ganga Expressway Project**, which will connect Meerut in west UP to Prayagraj in the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital:** Lucknow
- **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel
- **National Park:** Dudhwa National Park

- **Zoological Parks:** Gorakhpur Zoological Park, Kanpur Zoological Park, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden

International News

World's first fossil-free steel was manufactured in Sweden

- Swedish green steel venture **HYBRIT** had made the **world's first fossil-free steel** produced without using coal as it looks to revolutionise an industry that accounts for around 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- Sweden strives to achieve carbon neutrality by **2045** and become one of the world's first fossil-free welfare nations.

Pakistan gets a \$2.75 billion support fund from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under SDR allocation

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** sanctioned **\$2.75 billion** for **Pakistan** as part of its new **special drawing rights (SDR)** allocation to help economically weak countries tackle the COVID-19 outbreak.

Pakistan

- **Capital:** Islamabad
- **Currency:** Rupee
- **Prime Minister:** Imran Khan

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- **Headquarters:** Washington DC, USA
- **Managing Director:** Kristalina Georgieva
- **Chief Economist:** Gita Gopinath

Indian envoy launches an in-person consular service centre in Washington DC

- India's Ambassador to the US **Taranjit Singh Sandhu** launched an in-person consular service in **Washington DC** to benefit the Indian diaspora in the US.

India's evacuation mission from Afghanistan is named 'Operation Devi Shakti'

- **'Operation Devi Shakti'** is the name given to India's complex mission to evacuate its citizens and Afghan partners from Kabul following the change in leadership in Afghanistan.
- So far, India has evacuated over 800 people amid a deteriorating security situation in Kabul and scramble by various nations to rescue their citizens.

RBI partially lifts ban on HDFC Bank and allows it to sell new credit cards

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) partially lifted its technology ban on **HDFC Bank**. Reserve Bank of India has allowed HDFC Bank to source new **credit cards**.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

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

SBI Life Insurance launches new age protection plan 'SBI Life eShield Next'

- SBI Life Insurance announced the launch of a unique new age protection solution named '**SBI Life eShield Next**' which levels up the protection coverage as the insured achieves life's prominent milestones.

Reserve Bank of India introduces the Financial Inclusion Index

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced the **Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)** to measure the level of financial inclusion.
- The FI-Index is made up of three main parameters: **access** (35% weightage), **usage** (45% weightage) and **quality** (20% weightage), each of which has several aspects that are calculated using a variety of indicators.

RBI to introduce a 'PRISM', a web-based automation system to strengthen compliance by lenders

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is putting in a **Platform for Regulated Entities for Built-in Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM)**, a web-based end-to-end workflow automation system to strengthen compliance by supervised entities (SEs).

HDFC Limited launches the Green and Sustainable Fixed Deposits

- **Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC Ltd)** launched the '**Green & Sustainable Deposits**' to safeguard the environment from climate change.
- These fixed deposits will be directed towards financing green and sustainable housing credit solutions and services.

HDFC Bank (Housing Development Finance Corporation)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman:** Deepak Parekh

- **MD & CEO:** Sashidhar Jagdishan
- **Tagline:** “We understand your world”
- **Established:** 1994

SEBI cuts the minimum lock-in period for promoters investment post IPO to 18 months from three years

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) reduced the minimum **lock-in period for promoters’** investment post an initial public offering (IPO) to **18 months** from **three years**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman:** Ajay Tyagi
- **Founded:** 12 April 1992

Reserve Bank of India revises the norms for the hiring of lockers facility provided by banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) released the revised guidelines for the **hiring of lockers and safe custody facility** in view of various developments in the area of banking and technology, nature of consumer grievances and the feedback received from banks.
- The new guidelines will be effective from **1 January 2022** and applicable to new as well as existing lockers.

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Kotak Mahindra Bank partners with Creditas Solutions for digital repayment platform

- Powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), the ‘**Neo Collections**’ platform delivers a personalised and non-intrusive experience, thereby enabling customers to manage their dues seamlessly on their own through an intuitive repayment platform.

Kotak Mahindra bank

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **MD & CEO:** Uday Kotak

Spice Money builds 1 lakh micro-ATMs in rural India

- **Spice Money** established a mammoth ATM network with **1 lakh Spice Money micro - ATMs** operating across rural India.
- Spice Money witnesses over **Rs. 1000 crores** worth of transactions on a monthly basis on its **mATM network**.

Ind-Ra revises its GDP growth forecast of India for the current fiscal year

- **India Ratings (Ind-Ra)** lowered the gross domestic product (GDP) growth estimate for India to **9.4 per cent** from **9.6 per cent** for the current fiscal year 2021–2022.

Ind-Ra

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1995

ICICI Bank, HSBC and Standard Chartered enters India's 1st swaption deal

- **ICICI Bank** made India's first set of '**swaption**' deals with **HSBC** and **Standard Chartered Bank** and heralded a new era of risk management in the interest-rate derivatives market that needs to introduce world-class solutions to draw more overseas funds into local debt assets.

Paytm and HDFC Bank announces a strategic partnership

- Fintech major **Paytm** and **HDFC Bank Limited** have entered into a strategic partnership for delivering financial solutions to end consumers and merchants across India.
- Paytm and HDFC Bank will build comprehensive solutions across payment gateways, POS devices and credit products, including Paytm Postpaid (a Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) solution), Eazy EMI and Flexi Pay.

NIPL partners with UAE's Mashreq Bank to offer UPI in UAE to offer UPI in UAE

- National Payment Corporation of India's (NPCI) international arm **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** had partnered with **Mashreq Bank** in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to offer the United Payments Interface (UPI) in **UAE**.
- This marks UPI's foray into the third country outside of India after **Singapore and Bhutan**.

PayPal launches cryptocurrency buying and selling in the UK

- Customers in the **United Kingdom** will be able to purchase, sell and keep Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies through **PayPal Holdings Inc.**
- This is the first time PayPal's cryptocurrency services have been offered outside of the United States.

PayPal

SALEM INSTITUTE OF BANKING

- **Headquarters:** San Jose, California, the United States
- **Founded:** 1 December 1988
- **CEO:** Dan Schulman

RBI Committee suggests a four-tiered structure for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)

- A Committee set up by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to look into the functioning of **urban cooperative banks (UCB)** suggested a **four-tiered** structure to regulate them based on their size of deposits and prescribed different capital adequacy.
- Deposits up to **100 crores** are classified as Tier-1; deposits between **Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 1000 crores** are classified as Tier-2; deposits between **Rs. 1,000 crores to Rs. 10,000 crores** are classified as Tier-3 and deposits **exceeding Rs. 10,000 crores** are classified as Tier-4.

RBI gives “in-principle” approval for Centrum Financial Services Limited (CFSL) to set up a small finance bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given **Centrum Financial Services Ltd (CFSL)** “in principle” approval to set up a **small finance bank (SFB)** which will eventually take over Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

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- **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)

SBI General Insurance collaborates with Punjab Government to service Ayushman Bharat Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana in Punjab

- **SBI General Insurance**, in collaboration with the State Government of **Punjab**, is set to service the **Ayushman Bharat Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana (AB-SSBY)** and play a critical role in expanding the **health insurance coverage** in Punjab, especially to the less privileged sections.
- SBI General Insurance will give **Suraksha (protection) Aur Bharosa (trust) Dono** to the people of Punjab under this scheme, which would provide cashless health insurance coverage of **Rs. 5 lakhs** per annum to more than 40 lakh eligible families in Punjab.

Punjab

- **Capital:** Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister:** Capt. Amarinder Singh
- **Governor:** Vijayender Pal Singh Badnore

Appointments

Mirabai Chanu was appointed as the brand ambassador of Amway India for the Nutrilite range

- Amway India appointed Indian Olympian **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** as their brand ambassador for its Nutrilite range of products.

Samsung India ropes Alia Bhatt as its brand Ambassador

- Samsung India roped in actor **Alia Bhatt** as the brand ambassador for its premium Galaxy Z Series foldable smartphones.

Apurva Chandra was appointed as the next Secretary of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

- **Apurva Chandra**, a 1988-batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre, was appointed the **Secretary of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.
- He succeeds **Amit Khare**, the current Secretary of Higher Education.
- At present, Apurva Chandra is serving as Secretary in the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Shanti Lal Jain was appointed as the MD & CEO of Indian Bank

- **Shanti Lal Jain** was appointed as the **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank** for three years.
- He is currently serving as the Executive Director of the Bank of Baroda.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas was named as Chairperson of Jio MAMI

- **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** was named the new Chairperson of the **Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI) Film Festival**.
- She replaced the position which was previously chaired by **Deepika Padukone**.

Supreme Court of India recommends nine names for the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court of India

- The Collegium of Supreme Court headed by the Chief Justice of India N. V. **Ramana** recommended elevation of the following Chief Justices/Judges of the High Courts and a Bar member as Judges in the Supreme Court.

Name of the Person
Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka – Karnataka High Court
Justice Vikram Nath – Gujarat High Court
Justice J. K. Maheshwari – Sikkim High Court
Justice C. T. Ravikumar – Kerala High Court
Justice B. V. Nagarathna – Karnataka High Court
Justice Bela M. Trivedi – Gujarat High Court
Justice M. M. Sundresh – Madras High Court
Justice Hima Kohli – Telangana High Court
P. S. Narasimha – Senior Advocate

N. K. Singh was elected as the President of the Institute of Economic Growth Society

- **N. K. Singh** was elected as the **President** of the **Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society**. He succeeded **Manmohan Singh**.

Nakul Chopra was appointed as the CEO of the Broadcast Audience Research Council of India (BARC)

- Broadcast Audience Research Council India (BARC) appointed **Nakul Chopra** as its new chief executive officer (CEO). He succeeded **Sunil Lulla**.

Ismail Sabri Yaakob was appointed as the next Prime Minister of Malaysia

- Former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia **Ismail Sabri Yaakob** was appointed as the new **Prime Minister of Malaysia**.
- He succeeds **Muhyiddin Yassin**, who resigned after losing majority support in the lower house of parliament.

La. Ganesan was appointed as the Governor of Manipur

- Senior political leader from Tamil Nadu **La. Ganesan** was appointed as the 17th **Governor of Manipur**.
- He succeeded **Najma Heptulla** after she retired.

Manipur

- **Capital:** Imphal
- **Chief Minister:** Biren Singh
- **Governor:** La. Ganesan

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank MD & CEO Nitin Chugh steps down

- The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank **Nitin Chugh** had submitted his resignation.
- This resignation will come into effect from 30 September 2021.

T. M. Bhasin was reappointed as the Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Banking and Financial Frauds by CVC

- The **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** reappointed **T. M. Bhasin** as the Chairman of the **Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF)**, a panel tasked with investigating bank frauds of over Rs.50 crores.

Abhay Kumar Singh was named as the Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Cooperation

- **Abhay Kumar Singh** was named as Joint Secretary in the **Union Ministry of Cooperation** which was recently established to strengthen the cooperative movement in India.

Union Minister of Cooperation: Amit Shah

Arvind Kumar was appointed as the Managing Director of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited

- The Executive Director of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) **Arvind Kumar** was appointed as **the Managing Director of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)** for **five years**.

RapiPay Fintech appoints Nipun Jain as its Chief Executive Officer

- **RapiPay**, a fintech company that specialises in assisted payments category, named **Nipun Jain** as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

RBI approves the re-appointment of Sandeep Bakshi as the MD and CEO of ICICI Bank

- Sandeep Bakshi was re-appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of **ICICI Bank** by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with effect from 15 October 2021 to 3 October 2023.

Pawandeep Rajan becomes the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand

- Indian Idol season 12 winner **Pawandeep Rajan** was appointed as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand for art, tourism and culture.

Reliance Industries Limited tops the Indian list of companies with a market capitalization of \$188 billion in the Hurun Global List

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** topped the Indian list of companies in the **Hurun Global List** with a market capitalisation of \$188 billion. It was followed by Tata Consultancy Services Limited with \$164 billion and HDFC Bank with \$113 billion.
- The iPhone maker **Apple** retained the **top** position in the world with a market capitalisation of \$2.4 trillion.

Huawei ranks 44 in the Fortune Global List 2021

- **Huawei's** ranking in the Fortune Global List 2021 improved to **44 in 2021** from **49** in 2020.
- Huawei entered the list for the first time in 2010.
- The Fortune Global 500 annual ranking measures the business revenue of the top businesses across industries.

India ranks second in the Global Cryptocurrency Adoption Index

- India ranks **second** in the **Global Cryptocurrency Adoption Index** behind Vietnam according to the **2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index by blockchain data platform Chainalysis**.

Ghaziabad is the world's second most polluted city of 2020

- Uttar Pradesh's **Ghaziabad** was adjudged the **second** most polluted city out of the 50 'most polluted cities' in the world in 2020 by a report prepared by British company House Fresh.
- The Chinese city of **Hotan** in Xinjiang province was named the most polluted city of 2020.

India emerges as the second most sought manufacturing hub globally: Cushman & Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index

- According to Cushman & Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index, **India** surpassed the **United States** as the **second** most sought **manufacturing hub globally**, indicating the growing interest shown by manufacturers in India as a preferred manufacturing hub over other countries, including the United States and those in the Asia-Pacific region.
- China topped the index, whereas the United States ranked third.

Copenhagen was named as the world's safest city by the Economist Intelligence Unit

- **Copenhagen** was named as the safest city in the world which surpassed previous frontrunners Tokyo, Singapore and Osaka, according to a new survey by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU)

- **Headquarters:** London, United Kingdom
- **Founded:** 1946

Defence News

INS Kochi participates in a maritime partnership exercise in Bahrain

- **INS Kochi** is in Manama to participate in a four-day maritime partnership exercise in Bahrain. The coordination & operational planning conference was also held between Indian & Bahrain Navy teams.

INS Kochi

- INS Kochi (D64) is the second ship of the Kolkata-class stealth guided-missile destroyers built under the code name **Project 15A** for the Indian Navy.
- The ship was constructed by **Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL)** in Mumbai.
- After the extensive sea trials, the ship was commissioned to Indian Navy service on **30 September 2015**.

Bahrain

- **Capital:** Manama
- **Currency:** Dinar

Indian Navy and UK Navy conduct joint naval exercise 'Konkan'

- **'Konkan 2021'** was a joint naval exercise held between the **Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain** in Portsmouth, United Kingdom. Indian Naval Ship Tabar reached Portsmouth in England for the exercise.
- The main purpose of this Konkan naval exercise is to boost the interoperability, synergy and cooperation between both navies.

India and Vietnam navies undertake a bilateral maritime exercise in the South China Sea

- The Indian Navy ships **INS Ranvijay** and **INS Kora** undertook bilateral maritime exercises with Vietnam People's Navy (VPN) frigate **VPNS Ly Thai To (HQ-012)** to consolidate the strong bond shared by the two navies and would be another step towards strengthening India-Vietnam defence relations.

Books and Authors

Maharashtra Chief Minister releases the 10th edition of Shri Gadgebaba

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray released the tenth edition of **'Shri Gadgebaba'**, a biography written by his grandfather **Prabodhankar Thackeray**.

A new book titled “The Dream of Revolution: A Biography of Jaya Prakash Narayan” is set to be released

- A new book titled “**The Dream of Revolution: A Biography of Jayaprakash Narayan**” was authored by historians **Bimal Prasad and Sujata Prasad**. This book will be published by **Penguin Random House India**.

Ajitabha Bose launches the biography of Kapil Sharma

- **Ajitabha Bose** wrote a biography on the life journey of **Kapil Sharma**. The book’s name is **The Kapil Sharma Story** and its publisher is **Ajitabha Publisher**.
- **Ravi Shastri releases a new book titled ‘STARGAZING: The Players in My Life’**
- Indian cricket legend and successful test cricket coach **Ravi Shastri’s** book titled **‘STARGAZING: The Players in My Life’** was released. The book was published by **Harpercollins India**.

Agreements and MoUs signed

Union Cabinet approves an MoU between India and Bangladesh on cooperation in disaster management

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of disaster management, resilience and mitigation signed between India and Bangladesh.
- This MoU provides for the exchange of relevant information, remote sensing data and other scientific data and supporting the training of officials in disaster management.

Union Cabinet approves an MoU between India and the United States in the field of geology

- The Cabinet approved a pact between **India and the United States of America** on cooperation in the field of geology.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will provide an institutional mechanism between the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** and the **Florida International University (FIU)** on cooperation in the field of geology.

IIT Madras is set to with the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on pavement engineering and intelligent transportation systems

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** is set to collaborate with the **Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** to conduct research on pavement engineering and intelligent transportation systems.
- The research areas include pavement materials, hydrogen cell transportation, automatic vehicle classification, novel toll systems, FASTag data analytics and traffic simulations beside transportation safety, among others.

India and Australia sign a joint guidance for the Australia-India Navy to Navy relationship document

- The chiefs of the **Indian** and **Australian navies** signed a **joint guidance for the Australia-India Navy to Navy relationship** document to streamline interaction between the two forces at various levels.
- This document is aligned to the **‘2020 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership’** agreed to by Prime Ministers of the two nations and aims to ensure a shared approach to regional and global security challenges.

Facebook partners with Indian firm ‘Indifi’ for small business loans

- **Facebook** partnered with an Indian firm **‘Indifi’** and announced a new programme, the **‘small business loans initiative’**, to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India that advertise on the social media platform to get quick access to credit through independent lending partners.

Facebook

- **Headquarters:** California, the United States
- **MD & CEO:** Mark Elliot Zuckerberg

Assam Government inks an MoU with 38 microfinance institutions and banks for the Assam Micro Finance Incentive and Relief Scheme 2021

- The **Assam Government** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 38 microfinance institutions and banks for the implementation of the **Assam Micro Finance Incentive and Relief Scheme (AMFIRS) 2021** aimed at providing financial relief from the government to the microfinance borrowers in Assam to help them continue maintaining good credit discipline in COVID-19 times.
- This MoU will remain in force till **31 March 2023**.

NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute virtually launch forum to decarbonise India’s transport sector

As part of the Nationally Determined Contributions -Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA), NITI Aayog and the World Resources Institute (WRI) virtually launched the **‘Forum for Decarbonising Transport’** in India to focus on developing a coherent strategy of effective policies and the formation of a multi-stakeholder platform for decarbonising transport in India.

India and the United Nations sign an MoU for technology partnership in the peacekeeping mission

- **India and the United Nations (UN)** are all set to sign an MoU in support of the **peacekeeping mission** as a part of the visit by the Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

- India, in collaboration with the UN, will also roll out the **UNITE AWARE Platform**, a situational awareness software programme allowing Peacekeeping Operations Centre to visualise and analyse the ground situation in a conflict zone.

RBL Bank ties up with Pay Nearby and VISA for payment devices

- **PayNearby** partnered with **VISA and RBL Bank** to launch **SoftPoS and mPoS** for its over 1.5 million retail networks.
- The aim of this agreement is to democratise digital **payments and reduce cash transactions** at the last mile by offering an all-inclusive payment acceptance infrastructure at retail touchpoints.

USAID and DFC join hands with Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) to support MSMEs

- The **US Agency for International Development (USAID)** and the **US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)** would jointly sponsor a **\$50 million** loan portfolio to guarantee to **Kotak Mahindra Bank** to support increased financial access to women borrowers and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India.

Kotak Mahindra Bank

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **CEO:** Uday Kotak
- **Tagline:** “Let’s make money simple”

Microsoft partners with Invest India to empower tech startups

- **Microsoft India** has partnered with **Invest India** to empower tech startups.
- Microsoft technology such as Azure, GitHub and M365 will be available to the startups, allowing them to quickly build and run their businesses.

Science & Technology

HCL Foundation rolls out ‘My e-Haat’ portal to support the handicraft sector

- HCL Foundation launched an online portal, **‘My e-Haat’**, to empower artisans and strengthen the value chain of the handicraft sector in India.

BRICS signs a deal on cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing

- **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS)** signed an agreement for cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing.
- This pact enables building a virtual constellation of specified remote sensing satellites of BRICS space agencies and their respective ground stations will receive the data.

NTPC commissions India's largest floating solar power plant in Andhra Pradesh

- National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC Ltd.) commissioned India's largest floating solar photovoltaic (PV) project of 25 megawatt (MW) on the water reservoir of its 2 gigawatt (GW) Simhadri project at **Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh**.

IIT Madras develops India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair vehicle

- **Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M)** had developed India's first indigenous **motorised wheelchair vehicle** named 'NeoBolt', which can be used not only on roads but even on uneven terrains.
- It has a maximum speed of **25 kmph** and travels up to 25 km per charge, powered by a Lithium-Ion Battery.

Sports News

India's Raunak Sadhwani wins the 19th Spilimbergo Open chess Tournament 2021

- Indian Grandmaster **Raunak Sadhwani** emerged as the winner in the 19th Spilimbergo Open Chess Tournament with seven points from nine rounds.
- Indian Grandmaster **R Vaishali** finished 14th with six points and was the best among the women competitors.

Indian mixed relay team won a bronze medal at the World Athletics U-20 Championship 2021

- Indian mixed **4×400 m** relay team bagged a **bronze medal** to clinch India's fifth medal in the history of the **World Athletics U-20 Championships in Nairobi, Kenya**.
- The 2021 edition of the **World Athletics U-20 Championships** will be held till 22 August at the Nyayo Sports Complex, Kenya.

Shaili Singh wins the third medal for India at the World Athletics U-20 Championships

- India's **Shaili Singh** won the **silver medal** in women's **long jump** at the **World Athletics U-20 Championships** in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Sweden's Maja Askag won gold and Ukraine's Mariia Horielova won bronze.

Important Days

World Humanitarian Day – 19 August

- **World Humanitarian Day** is observed on **19 August** annually to honour humanitarians across the world.
- The theme of this year 2021 is **#The Human Race**
- This day is observed to pay tribute to people who sacrificed their lives despite the odds and continue to provide protection and life-saving support to people in need.

World Photography Day – 19 August

- **World Photography Day** is observed on **19 August** annually to celebrate the craft, art, science and history of photography.
- The objective of this day is to inspire more photographers and experts to talk about their profession that is a fine blend of art and technology.

World Mosquito Day – 20 August

- **World Mosquito Day** is observed on **20 August** every year to raise awareness and alertness about the diseases caused by mosquitos.
- The theme for World Mosquito Day 2021 is **‘Reaching the zero malaria target’**.

World Senior Citizens’ Day – 21 August

- **World Senior Citizens’ Day** is observed on **21 August** every year to recognise the contribution of elders towards society and its people.
- This day serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about issues like elder abuse, common medical conditions among them and at the same time appreciate their service to the community as well.

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism – 21 August

- The United Nations observes 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism.
- This day is observed with the aim to provide and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms to the victims of terrorism.

Sanskrit Week – 19 August to 25 August

- India observes **Sanskrit week** from **19 August to 25 August** to raise awareness and promote the ancient Indian language.

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief – 22 August

- The **International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief** is observed on 22 August to emphasise the importance of assisting religious persecution victims as part of the United Nations’ efforts to promote human rights related to freedom of religion or belief.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition –23 August

- **International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition** is celebrated on **23 August** every year with an aim to remember millions of people who were the victims of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

World Water Week 2021 – 23 to 27 August 2021

- The World Water Week 2021 is organised from **23–27 August** virtually under the theme **‘Building Resilience Faster’**.
- Since 1991, the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) observes World Water Week to highlight the global water issues and related concerns of international development.

Obituary

Indian athletic coach OM Nambiar passed away

- Legendary athlete coach PT Usha’s **Othayothu Madhavan Nambiar** passed away at the age of 89.
- He was honoured with the **Dronacharya Award** in 1985 and the **Padma Shri in 2021**. He earned a great reputation by training the legendary PT Usha in the 80s and 90s.

German footballer Gerd Mueller passed away

- Legendary German striker **Gerd Muller** nicknamed ‘Bomber der Nation’ passed away at the age of 75.

Popular Tamil actor Chitra passed away at 56

- Popular actor **‘Nallennai’ Chitra** passed away in Chennai at the age of 56 due to cardiac arrest.
- She had begun her career as a child artist in Tamil films, but she attained popularity through Malayalam films.

Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Kalyan Singh passed away

- Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and former Rajasthan Governor **Kalyan Singh** passed away at the age of 89 in Lucknow.

Academician Gail Omvedt passed away at 81

- Renowned American-born Indian scholar and writer on the Ambedkarism and Dalit movement **Gail Omvedt** passed away at the age of 81.
- She authored books on Dalit politics, women’s struggles and the anti-caste movement.

Rolling Stones drummer Charlie Watts passed away at the age of 80

- **Charlie Watts**, the Rolling Stones **drummer** who propelled the band's sound for nearly 60 years, passed away at the age of 80.

Former Indian footballer O. Chandrasekharan passed away

- Former Indian footballer **O. Chandrasekharan** passed away in Kochi at the age of 86.



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