

National News

Union Minister of State of Earth Sciences launches the Air Quality Early Warning System

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences **Jitendra Singh** has launched the **Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS)** to have decision-making capability for air quality management in Delhi – National Capital Region.
- A dedicated website has been created to deliver quantitative information about the contribution of emissions from Delhi and the surrounding 19 districts to the air quality in Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the Kushinagar International Airport in Uttar Pradesh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Kushinagar International Airport** in **Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.
- This airport is intended to increase Buddhist tourism because Kushinagar is the final resting place of Gautama Buddha, where he attained Mahaparinirvana after his death.
- The Kushinagar International Airport was built at an estimated cost of **260 crores**.
- This airport will serve nearby districts of **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar** and is an important step in boosting the investment and employment opportunities in the region.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited launches an automated fuelling Technology named 'UFill'

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** has launched an automated fuelling technology named **'UFill'** to ensure that its customers have a better experience at outlets.
- The new automated fuelling technology is secure, fast and smart and the customers need not download any app to use the UFill technology.
- When it comes to payment, customers can use whichever app they like, such as **Google Pay, Paytm**, etc.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **MD & CEO:** Arun Kumar Singh
- **Founded:** 1952

UIDAI is set to host the 'Aadhaar Hackathon 2021' from 28–31 October 2021

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** is planning to organise a hackathon called the **'Aadhaar Hackathon 2021'** from 28–31 October 2021, which is aimed at young innovators who are still in school and want to go into the real world.
- The Aadhaar Hackathon 2021 is based on the two themes:
 - The first theme is around 'Enrolment and Update', which essentially covers some of the real-life challenges being faced by the residents while updating their address in their Aadhaar.
 - The second theme of the hackathon is around the 'Identity and Authentication' solution offered by UIDAI.

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 28 January 2009

NITI Aayog collaborates with ISRO and launches Geographic Information System (GIS) based 'energy map of India'

- Government think tank **NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, launched the **Geographic Information System (GIS) based 'energy map of India'**.
- This GIS map provides a holistic picture of all **energy resources** such as conventional power plants, oil and gas wells, petroleum refineries, coal fields and coal blocks through **27 thematic layers**.
- This map aims to identify and locate all primary and secondary energy sources, as well as associated transportation/transmission networks to provide a full view of energy production and distribution in India.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru
- **Founder:** Vikram Sarabhai
- **Director:** Kailasavadivoo Sivan

National Security Guard celebrates its 37th Raising Day

- **National Security Guard (NSG)** is celebrates its raising day on 16 October every year. This year (2021) marks the **37th anniversary** of the establishment of the NSG. It is popularly known as **Black Cats**.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur launches the 'MyParkings app' to book parking slots online in Delhi

- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting **Anurag Thakur** has launched **MyParkings app** in New Delhi. This application will also help reduce pollution from vehicles by minimising the time spent searching for parking spots.
- This application was developed by **Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL)** with **South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC)** with the purpose to digitise all authorised parking under the civic body's municipal limits.

Kullu Dussehra festival was celebrated in Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh Governor **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar** inaugurated the Dussehra festival in **Kullu, Himachal Pradesh**.
- The traditional weeklong **Kullu Dussehra festival** has begun in Kullu after rolling out of the chariot of Lord Raghunath at Dhalpur Dussehra ground.

Himachal Pradesh

- Capital: **Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)**
- Chief Minister: **Jai Ram Thakur**
- Governor: **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**
- National Parks: **Inderkila National Park, Simbalbara National Park, Great Himalayan National Park, Pin Valley National Park, Khirganga National Park**

Union Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister launches Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M) tool

- Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj **Giriraj Singh** launched the **Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M) tool** for integrating climate information in

Geographic Information System (GIS)-based watershed planning under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act**.

- The implementation of the CRISP-M will open up new possibilities for the rural communities to deal with the issues of climate change.

Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj: Giriraj Singh

- **Constituency:** Begusarai

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) gets Maharatna status from the Union Government

- **Government of India's** Department of Public Enterprises granted the prestigious '**Maharatna**' status to the **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** to pave the way for the company's greater financial and operational efficiency.
- PFC became the **11th public sector enterprise** to get this status in India.
- 'Maharatna' status is granted to a company that has recorded more than Rs. 5000 crores of net profit for three consecutive years, an average annual turnover of Rs. 25,000 crores for three years or should have an average annual net worth of Rs. 15,000 crores for three years.

Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 16 July 198

Department of Biotechnology launches India's first 'One Health' Consortium

- The **Department of Biotechnology** has launched the '**One Health**' consortium virtually to monitor significant bacterial, viral and parasitic infections caused by **zoonotic and transboundary pathogens** across India.
- This project focuses on the usage of existing diagnostic tests as well as the development of new approaches for the surveillance and understanding of the spread of emerging diseases.
- The '**One Health Consortium**' consisting of 27 organisations is led by the Department of Biotechnology – National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad.

National Capital Region Planning Board approves the Draft regional plan – 2041

- The **Draft Regional Plan-2041** was approved by the **National Capital Region (NCR) Planning Board** setting the path for a future-ready, slum-free National Capital Region with an air ambulance and high-speed connectivity through heli-taxis, road, rail and inland waterways.
- This draft plan emphasises 30-minute connectivity by super-fast trains within NCR's major cities, as well as the viability of a 30-minute **Mass Transit Rail System (MTRS)** from the NCR's nearest borders to Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches PM Gati Shakti– National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity in Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **PM Gati Shakti – National Master Plan** for multi-modal connectivity and new exhibition complexes of India Trade Promotion Organisation at the Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- The National Master Plan will provide Gati Shakti with development plans of the 21st century and will help in the timely completion of these plans.
- The Union Government has approved **100 lakh crores** to speed up the implementation of infrastructure projects across India at both the central and state levels and bring down logistics costs.

- Gati Shakti is based on the six pillars — comprehensiveness, prioritisation, optimisation, synchronisation and being analytical and dynamic.

Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the eighth ministerial meeting of the India–USA Economic and Financial Partnership Dialogue

- The **eighth ministerial meeting of the India–USA Economic and Financial Partnership Dialogue**, chaired by the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** and the US Treasury Secretary Dr. Janet Yellen, was held in Washington D.C.
- Discussions on various topics were held at the event, including the macroeconomic outlook and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, financial regulatory and technical collaboration, multilateral engagement, climate finance and anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT).

Union Finance Minister virtually attends the plenary meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC)

- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** virtually attended the plenary meeting of the **International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC)** of the Board of Governors of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** held in Washington D.C., the United States.
- The discussions at this meeting were based on ‘vaccinate, calibrate and accelerate’, which is the theme of the IMF’s Managing Director’s Global Policy Agenda.
- Union Finance Minister urged for greater equity in vaccine access and affordability for a faster exit towards recovery and growth.
- The IMFC welcomed the new **Special Drawing Rights (SDR)** allocation of reserve assets of the IMF, \$650 billion of which were newly created in 2021.

State News

Union Government renames Mount Harriet in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Mount Manipur

- Union Government renamed **Mount Harriet** at Kalapani in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as ‘**Mount Manipur**’ to honour Manipur’s Maharaja Kulchandra Dhvaj Singh and 22 other freedom fighters’ imprisonment.

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launches the ‘Chief Minister’s Health for All’ scheme

- **Manipur** Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launched the ‘**Chief Minister’s Health for All**’ scheme in which **door-to-door health screening** will be conducted across Manipur and Jan Aushadhi medicines will be provided to patients free of cost for primary health care.
- Patients with severe and chronic illnesses will also be issued Chief Minister Gi Hakchel Gi Tengbal (**CM Health Care Scheme**) and Ayushman Bharat health cards, if they are eligible.

Manipur

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

Eight high courts in India get new Chief Justices and five Chief Justices were transferred to different high courts

- President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the appointment of new Chief Justices to eight high courts and also approved the transfer of five Chief Justices to different high courts in India.

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Name of the person	Current Position	Former Position
Rajesh Bindal	Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court	
Ranjit V. More	Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court	
Satish Chandra Sharma	Chief Justice of Telangana High Court	
Prakash Shrivastava	Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court	
R. V. Malimath	Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court	
Ritu Raj Awasthi	Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court	
Aravind Kumar	Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court	Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court
Prashant Kumar Mishra	Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court	
Akil Abdulhamid Kureshi	Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court	Chief Justice of Tripura High Court
Indrajit Mahanty	Chief Justice of Tripura High Court	Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court
Mohammad Rafiq	Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court	Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court
Biswanath Somadder	Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court	Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court
Arup Kumar Goswami	Chief Justice of Chattisgarh High Court	Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court

International News

Sri Lanka seeks a credit line of \$500 million from India for fuel purchases

- **Sri Lanka** has requested for a **\$500 million** in the form of a **credit line** from India to pay for its crude oil purchases under the Indo–Sri Lanka Economic Partnership Agreement amid a severe fuel crisis.
- The price of crude oil on the international market has soared to a three-year high of \$84 per barrel. Sri Lanka has been affected particularly hard by the spike in crude oil prices.
- Ceylon Petroleum Corporation owes two of Sri Lanka’s largest banks, Bank of Ceylon and People’s Bank, more than \$3.3 billion.

Sri Lanka

- **Capital:** Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- **Currency:** Sri Lankan Rupee
- **Prime Minister:** Mahinda Rajapaksa
- **President:** Gotabaya Rajapaksa

India and the United Kingdom hold inaugural maritime dialogue virtually to discuss co-operation in the Indo–Pacific

- **India** and the **United Kingdom** held their **inaugural maritime dialogue** virtually as agreed in the **India–UK Roadmap 2030** for future relations to discuss co-operation in Indo–Pacific and regional/multilateral co-operation.

United Kingdom

- **Capital:** London
- **Currency:** Pound Sterling
- **Prime Minister:** Boris Johnson

India and Sri Lanka hold the 8th edition of 'MITRA SHAKTI' joint military exercise in Sri Lanka

- The 8th edition of the joint military exercise 'Mitra Shakti' was held between the **Indian Army** and the **Sri Lankan Army** in Ampara, Sri Lanka. This military exercise will further promote synergy and **interoperability** amongst the two-armed forces besides further strengthening the bilateral ties.

Sri Lanka

- Capital: **Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte**
- Currency: **Rupee**
- Prime Minister: **Mahinda Rajapaksa**
- President: **Gotabaya Rajapaksa**

India gifts ambulance and medical supplies to Kumudini Hospital in Bangladesh

- The High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh **Vikram Doraiswami** handed over a life support ambulance and essential medical supplies to the Kumudini Hospital in Mirzapur, Bangladesh.
- He handed over the **ambulance, oxygen cylinders respiratory support equipment,** to the Managing Director of the Kumudini Welfare Trust **Rajiv Prasad Shaha**.
- The ambulance is part of the overall programme for the supply of **109 life support ambulances**, announced by Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** during his visit to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh

- Capital: **Dhaka**
- Currency: **Taka**
- Prime minister: **Sheikh Hasina**
- President: **Abdul Hamid**

India gets re-elected as a member of the UN Human Rights Council for sixth time

- **India** was re-elected as a member to the **UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** for **6th time** for the 2022–24 term from January 2022. India vowed to continue to work for the promotion and protection of human rights through "Samman, Samvad and Sahyog".
- India received 184 votes in the 193-member assembly, while the required majority was 97.
- India's current term was set to end on 31 December 2021.

UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **President:** Nazhat Shameem

Germany unveils the world's first automated driverless train in Hamburg

- German railway company **Deutsche Bahn** collaborated with industrial group **Siemens** to unveil the **world's first automated driverless train** in Hamburg to be more punctual and energy-efficient compared to traditional man-driven ones.

- This automated railway service is a part of the **60 million euro** project by Siemens and Deutsche Bahn for the modernisation of Hamburg's rapid urban rail system.

Germany

- **Capital:** Berlin
- **Currency:** Euro
- **President:** Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- **Chancellor:** Angela Merkel

International Energy Agency invites India to become its full-time member

- **International Energy Agency (IEA)** has invited the world's third-largest energy consumer, **India**, to become its full-time member to deepen its cooperation with IEA.
- If the proposal is accepted, India will require New Delhi to raise strategic oil reserves to 90 days requirement.
- IEA is made up of 30 member countries and eight associate nations.

International Energy Agency (IEA)

- **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- **Executive Director:** Fatih Barol

Banking & Economy

IMF cuts India's potential GDP forecast to 6 per cent

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** cut India's potential growth prediction for 2021 by 25 basis points to **6 per cent** from 6.25 per cent due to the pandemic's negative impact on investments and the labour market.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- **Headquarters:** Washington DC, USA
- **Managing Director:** Kristalina Georgieva

CoinDCX launches an over-the-counter (OTC) desk facility for institutional clients

- **CoinDCX** has launched an **over-the-counter (OTC)** desk for institutional clients interested in trading crypto assets, with the goal of increasing the number of users and overall trading volume.

CoinDCX

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Founded:** 2018

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposes a monetary penalty Rs. 1 crore on the State Bank of India (SBI) and Rs. 1.95 crores on Standard Chartered Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **1 crore** on the **State Bank of India (SBI)** for violating rules related to (Frauds classification and reporting by commercial banks and select Financial Institutions) Directions 2016 and reporting by commercial banks and financial institutions.
- RBI also imposed a fine of **1.95 crores** on **Standard Chartered Bank** for being non-compliant with the RBI's directions concerning cyber security, credit card and electronic banking operations.

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)

IndiaFirst Life Insurance introduces an endowment plan named 'Saral Bachat Bima'

- **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited** has introduced IndiaFirst Life **Saral Bachat Bima** plan to provide savings and protection cover for entire families for future needs.
- This non-linked, non-participating, individual limited premium insurance offers a five- or seven-year pay commitment to protect entire families for 12–15 years.
- IndiaFirst Life Insurance is promoted by the **Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India**.

Moody's upgrades Indian banking system's outlook to stable from negative

- Moody's Investor Services has changed the outlook of the Indian banking system from **negative to stable** on the back of stabilising asset quality and improved capital.
- Moody's expects India's economy to continue to recover in the next 12–18 months, with the GDP growing **3 per cent** in the fiscal year ending March 2022.

Moody's Investor Services

- **Headquarters:** New York, United States

Accenture is set to acquire Bengaluru-based AI and analytics startup BRIDGEi2i

- IT services company **Accenture** will acquire **Bengaluru**-based artificial intelligence and analytics company **BRIDGEi2i** to expand its capabilities in data science, machine learning and AI-powered insights.

IndusInd Bank, Karur Vysya Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank receive authorization from the RBI direct and indirect Taxes

- **IndusInd Bank, Karur Vysya Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank** have been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the collection of **direct and indirect taxes** on behalf of the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.
- IndusInd Bank customers will soon be able to pay their direct and indirect taxes through the bank's state-of-the-art digital platforms such as '**Indusnet**' — its net banking platform and '**IndusMobile**' — its mobile banking application.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank also received approvals to collect direct and indirect taxes such as income tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST) through its banking network.
- Karur Vysya Bank had initiated the integration process with CBDT. Once completed, the bank's customers would be able to remit their direct taxes through any branch, net banking and the DLite mobile app of the bank.

IndusInd Bank

- **Headquarters:** Pune, Maharashtra
- **MD & CEO:** Sumant Kathpalia

Karur Vysya Bank

- **Headquarters:** Karur, Tamil Nadu
- **MD & CEO:** Ramesh Babu

Kotak Mahindra Bank launches micro ATMs across all over India

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)**, by using its business correspondents network, will launch the **micro ATMs** across India from which the customers of all banks can use a Kotak micro ATM for key banking services such as **cash withdrawals and checking account balances**.
- The micro ATM is a simple, innovative and highly effective solution to deliver essential banking services such as cash withdrawals in a convenient manner to people residing in relatively remote locations.

Kotak Mahindra Bank

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

International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects India's economic growth at 9.5 per cent for 2021

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has projected India's GDP growth forecasts at **5 per cent** in 2021 and **8.5 per cent** for 2022.
- In July of this year (2021), the IMF lowered India's growth prediction for the current fiscal year by 300 basis points to 9.5 per cent, down from 12.5 per cent in April 2021.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- **Headquarters:** Washington D.C., the United States
- **President:** Kristalina Georgieva

Department of Posts launches the digital version of the postal life insurance policy named 'ePLI-bond'

- The **Department of Posts** launched a digital version of the postal life insurance policy — **ePLI bond**, which subscribers can access through Digilocker.
- The Department of Post's first digital integration with Digilocker is the ePLI bond which will benefit citizens by offering **easy access and speedy claim settlements**.
- ePLI bond is made available in collaboration with Digilocker developed by the National eGovernance Division (NeGD) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity).

Shivalik Small Finance Bank partners with Go Digit Insurance to provide insurance products

- **Shivalik Small Finance Bank** partnered with **Go Digit General Insurance** to provide an array of instant, easy-to-understand insurance products such as health insurance plans, motor insurance and home and shop insurance through the bank's network of branches across India.

Shivalik Small Finance Bank

- **Headquarters:** Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- It is the first small finance bank in India to have transitioned from an urban co-operative bank.

Unity Small Finance Bank receives small finance bank licence from RBI

- **Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (USFBL)**, a joint venture between Centrum Financial Services Limited (CFSL) and Resilient Innovations Private Limited (BharatPe), has received a **small finance bank licence** from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The new entity will take over the assets and liabilities of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank.

- Centrum's MSME and micro finance businesses will be merged into Unity Small Finance Bank.

SEBI constitutes a four-member committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has constituted a **four-member** high powered advisory committee chaired by the retired judge of the High Court of Bombay **Vijay C. Daga** on settlement orders and compounding of offences.
- This committee will work as per the Settlement Proceedings Regulations, 2018, specified by the SEBI.
- A settlement mechanism is a tool for ensuring speedy and efficient resolution of disputes.
- The time limit for filing settlement applications should be reduced from 180 to 60 days.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

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

Appointments and Resignations

IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath is going to step down in January 2022

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Chief Economist **Gita Gopinath** will step down from the position and return to Harvard University in January 2022.
- She had joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the Chief Economist in January 2019 and made history as the **first female Chief Economist** of the IMF.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- **Headquarters:** Washington DC, USA
- **Managing Director:** Kristalina Georgieva

Amit Rastogi was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of the National Research Development Corporation

- **Amit Rastogi** took over as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the **National Research Development Corporation (NRDC)**.
- He previously served as the Director of Electrical Engineering at the Union Ministry of Defence's integrated headquarters for five years and as the Additional General Manager (Tech Services) at the Naval Dockyard for two years.

Phanimohan Kalagara was appointed as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Pine Labs

- Pine Labs has roped in former Flipkart executive **Phanimohan Kalagara** as its new Chief Technology Officer (CTO) after replacing Sanjeev Kumar.
- Phanimohan Kalagara has spent 12 years working with PayPal, three years at Flipkart and about 8 years working in the USA.

A. Balasubramanian was elected as the Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds (AMFI) in India

- The Chief Executive Officer of Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management **A. Balasubramanian** was elected as the **Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds (AMFI) in India**.
- He succeeded Nilesh Shah.

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- The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Edelweiss Asset Management Company Radhika Gupta was elected as the Vice-chairperson of AMFI.
- Balasubramanian has earlier served as the AMFI Chairman for the period 2017–2019.

Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Formed:** 1995
- **Regulator:** Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

RBI approves the reappointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as MD & CEO of Axis Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the reappointment of **Amitabh Chaudhry** as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Axis Bank** for another **three years**, with effect from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024.
- His tenure as the MD and CEO of the Axis Bank begun on **1 January 2019** and was scheduled to expire on **31 December 2021**.

Axis Bank

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- MD & CEO: **Amitabh Chaudhry**
- Tagline: **Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi**

RBI approves Pankaj Kumar Panja as Non-executive Chairman of the Karnataka Bank

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the appointment of **Pankaj Kumar Panja** as part-time Chairman of the **Karnataka Bank** for a period of **three years**, with effect from November 2021.

IndusInd Bank appoints Gobind Jain as its new CFO

- **Gobind Jain** was appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of **IndusInd Bank**. He succeeded **SV Zaregaonkar**, who resigned recently.

Navrang Saini gets additional charge as the Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

- The Union Government has assigned the additional charge of the **Chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** to the Whole-time member of IBBI, **Navrang Saini** for a period of three months.
- He succeeded M. S. Sahoo, who was the first Chairperson of IBBI since 1 October 2016.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1 October 2016

Atul Kumar Goel was elected as the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA)

- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UCO Bank **Atul Kumar Goel** was appointed as the **Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** for 2021–22.
- He succeeded G. Rajkiran Rai, MD & CEO of Union Bank of India.
- He was shortlisted by the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) to take over as the CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB) from January 2022.

Sajjan Jindal was appointed as the Chairman of the World Steel Association

- **World Steel Association (WSA)** elected **Sajjan Jindal** as its Chairman for the year 2021-22.
- He is the Chairman and Managing Director of JSW Steel Limited.
- He became the first representative from India to serve as the Chairman of the WSA.

World Steel Association (WSA)

- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium

Amit Khare was appointed as the Advisor to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- Former Higher Education Secretary **Amit Khare** was appointed as the **Advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on a contract basis.
- He was a 1985-batch Jharkhand cadre IAS officer. He retired on 30 September and helped to shape the new **National Education Policy (NEP)**.

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) appoints Arun Kumar Mishra as its Chief Executive Officer

- The **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** has appointed **Arun Kumar Mishra** as its **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.
- EESL is a joint venture between NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation, Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) and POWERGRID, which was set up under the Union Power Ministry to facilitate the implementation of energy efficiency projects.

Ritesh Chauhan was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- **Ritesh Chauhan** was appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** and the Joint Secretary of Agriculture under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, whereas **Meera Mohanty** was appointed as the **Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)**.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- **Launched on:** 18 February 2016
- **Launched by:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Justice Sivakumar was appointed as the Chairperson of Tamil Nadu SC/ST Commission

- Former Madras High Court Judge **Justice Sivakumar** was appointed as the Chairperson of the newly constituted state commission for SCs/STs of Tamil Nadu.
- This commission will suggest appropriate legal and welfare measures to be undertaken by the Tamil Nadu Government for the upliftment of people belonging to the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes.

Jonas Gahr Stoere becomes the new Prime Minister of Norway

- **Jonas Gahr Stoere** became the new Prime Minister of Norway and succeeded Erna Solberg after she submitted her resignation.
- Emilie Enger Mehl became the youngest Justice Minister of Norway at the age of 28, while the Foreign Minister portfolio went to another woman — Anniken Scharring Huitfeldt.

Norway

- **Capital:** Oslo
- **Currency:** Norwegian Krone

Awards and Recognitions

Indian Army team wins the gold medal at Cambrian Patrol exercise at the Wales in the United Kingdom

- The **Indian Army team** won a **gold medal** at the **Cambrian Patrol exercise** held in the Brecon, Wales, the **UK**. It competed against 96 teams representing special forces and regiments from around the world.
- This exercise is considered the ultimate test of human endurance, team spirit and is sometimes referred to as the **Olympics of Military Patrolling** among militaries in the world.

Vidyut Mohan's project named Takachar wins Prince William's Earthshot Prize

- Delhi-based **Vidyut Mohan's Project** titled '**Takachar**' was named among the winner of the 1 million pound sterling worth **Prince William's Earthshot Prize** in London for its cheap, small-scale and portable technology innovation to convert crop residues into sellable bio-products in the clean air category.
- This technology reduces smoke emissions by up to **98 per cent**, is targeted at improving air quality, which currently reduces the life expectancy of the afflicted population by up to five years.

WHO Director-General Bestows Posthumous Award was awarded to late Henrietta Lacks

- The Chief of the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** honored the late **Henrietta Lacks** with a WHO Bestows Posthumous Award.
- Henrietta Lacks is an American woman whose cancer cells were taken without her knowledge during the **1950s**.

James Sangma wins the Progressive Business Concept Award from PETA for promoting vegan pineapple leather

- The **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)** has named Meghalaya's Environment and Forest Minister **James Sangma** as the winner of the **Progressive Business Concept Award** for promoting **vegan pineapple leather**.
- This move of vegan pineapple-leather production will protect animals and the environment.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella receives C. K. Prahalad Award for Business Sustainability Leadership 2021

- Microsoft CEO **Satya Nadella** is among the corporate leaders to receive the prestigious **K. Prahalad Award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership 2021**.
- Four of Microsoft's top leaders — Satya Nadella along with its President and Vice-Chair Brad Smith, Chief Financial Officer Amy Hood and Chief Environment Officer Lucas Joppa received this honour for their collaborative leadership for transforming Microsoft into a carbon negative company by 2030 and to remove all its historical emissions by 2050.

Dr. Randeep Guleria was conferred with the 22nd Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in 2021

- The Vice President of India presented the **22nd Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in 2021** to the Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), **Randeep Guleria**.
- This award is presented for a distinguished Indian, residing either in India or abroad for his/her sustained individual contributions and outstanding achievements of high professional order and excellence in the field of management, public administration, public affairs, education or institution building, art and culture and sports.

Agreements and MoUs Signed

PhonePe partners with NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) and launches ClickPay for easy bill payments

- **PhonePe** has partnered with the **National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) Bharat Bill Pay Limited (NBBL)** to launch **ClickPay** for its customers, which enables them to make recurring online bill payments for electricity, gas, loan repayments and water bills.
- The ClickPay feature will assist in increasing the share of digital transactions in the ecosystem by reducing errors caused due to manual inputs required for online bill payments.

PhonePe

- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka
- **Chief Executive Officer (CEO):** Sameer Nigam

Jammu and Kashmir Government signs an MoU with Dubai Government to develop real estate and industrial parks

- The **Jammu and Kashmir Government** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Dubai** for real estate development, industrial parks, IT towers, multipurpose towers, logistics, medical college and super-speciality hospitals.
- This move would lead to import-export, food processing, health care and other businesses to flourish in Jammu & Kashmir.

ICC partners with UNICEF to raise awareness on the mental health of children

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has partnered with the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** to amplify awareness around the **mental health** and well-being of children and adolescents throughout the men's cricket T20 World Cup.
- UNICEF's global campaign #OnYourMind, which calls for commitment, communication and action to support good mental health for all children, will be amplified as a result of this partnership.

Karnataka Government signs an MoU with NASSCOM for industry-aligned skill development of students

- The **Karnataka State Higher Education Council** has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)** to provide **industry-aligned skill development** experiences to students of higher education which will benefit over five lakh students and faculty every year.
- These skill training courses are designed as per the national occupational standards of the National Skills Qualification Framework.

Karnataka

- **Capital:** Bengaluru
- **Chief Minister:** Basavaraj Bommai
- **Governor:** Thaawarchand Gehlot
- **National Park:** Anshi National Park, Kudremukh National Park, Bandipur National Park, Bannerghatta National Park, Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarhole) National Park

Ranks and Indices

India ranks 71st on the Global Food Security Index 2021

- **India** was ranked at the **71st position** in the **Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021**, a global report released by London-based **Economist Impact and Corteva Agriscience** out of 113 countries.
- Ireland, Australia, the UK, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, France and the US shared the top rank.
- This index is calculated based on the factors of affordability, availability, quality and safety and natural resources and resilience.

Indian pension system was ranked 40th among 43 systems according to the 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey (MCGPI)

- The **Indian pension system** was ranked **40th** out of 43 pension systems across the world in the **Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey (MCGPI) 2021**, suggesting that India's pension system needs to be overhauled to ensure enough retirement income.
- Iceland topped the index while Thailand had the lowest overall index value.
- India stood at the 34th position out of 39 pension systems in 2020.

Reliance Industries tops Indian firms in the Forbes World's Top 100 Best Employers list

- **Reliance Industries Limited** has topped the Indian corporates in the **World's Best Employers rankings 2021**, published by **Forbes**. Reliance was placed at **52** in the overall ranking of **750** global corporates like Phillips, Sanofi, Pfizer and Intel.
- The global ranking was topped by **South Korean** giant **Samsung Electronics** followed by US giants **IBM, Microsoft, Amazon, Apple, Alphabet** and **Dell Technologies**. China's Huawei was placed as the 8th best employer in the world.

India ranks third in the Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index

- **India** remained at the third position among 40 nations in the 58th edition of **Ernst and Young's 'Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index' (RECAI)**.
- The United States and China retained their top two positions in the Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index' (RECAI).
- Indonesia is a new entrant to the RECAI.
- **India** ranked **sixth** among the top 30 Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) markets in the newly introduced PPA index — **RECAI Corporate PPA Index** while Spain ranked first.

Media.net's CEO Divyank Turakhia tops the Hurun Rich List 2021

- **net's** Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Divyank Turakhia** was on top of the **Hurun Rich List 2021** with a net worth of **Rs. 12,500 crores**.
- He was followed by the co-founder of Browser stack Nakul Aggarwal and Ritesh Arora with a wealth of Rs. 12,400 crores each.

India ranks 101 in the Global Hunger Index 2021

- **India's** rank has slipped by seven places from 94 to **101** among 116 countries in the **Global Hunger Index 2021** and is behind its neighbouring countries Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- This index was jointly prepared by Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organisation Welt Hunger Hilfe.

- The **Global Hunger Index (GHI)** score is calculated on four indicators — undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and the mortality rate of children under the age of five.
- The Opposition parties slammed the Government over India slipping to 101st position in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) even as the government termed the methodology used for the rankings “unscientific”.

Defence News

India and the US start the 17th edition of ‘Yudh Abhyas’ military exercise

- The 17th edition of the joint military training exercise **Yudh Abhyas 2021** began in Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska of the **United States**, from 15–29 October 2021.
- The earlier version of this exercise was held in India at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- This joint military exercise aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between two armies.

Russia and China hold naval exercise ‘Joint Sea 2021’ in the Sea of Japan

- A joint naval exercise named ‘**Joint Sea 2021**’ was held between **Russia and China** from 14–17 October in the **Sea of Japan**.
- This joint naval drill would encompass communications, joint manoeuvring and firing on seaborne targets, anti-air, anti-mine and anti-submarine operations, joint manoeuvring and firing on seaborne targets.
- The combined force would practise shooting at targets that resembled enemy surface ships and conduct air defence drills with **Russian SU-30SM** multi-functional fighter jets and helicopters.

Five-day Naval Commanders Conference begins in New Delhi

- Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** addressed the second edition of **the five-day Naval Commanders Conference** in **New Delhi** amid increased security worries in the aftermath of the changes in the government of Afghanistan and the ongoing unrest on both the northern and western frontiers of India.
- The commanders will review major operational, materiel, logistics, human resource development, training and administrative activities undertaken by the Indian Navy in the last few months and deliberate upon future plans for important activities and initiatives.

Science and Technology

NASA launches the first space probe to study the Trojan asteroids of Jupiter

- NASA launched the first space mission **Lucy spacecraft**, to study the Trojans asteroids.
- The Trojan asteroids of Jupiter are leftover raw materials from the formation of our solar system’s giant planets (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune) over 4.5 billion years ago.
- Lucy spacecraft mission is a 12-year expedition to study a record number of asteroids.
- It will be the first to explore the Trojan asteroids, thousands of rocky objects orbiting the sun in two swarms — one ahead of the path of the giant gas planet Jupiter and one behind it.

NASA

- **Headquarters:** Washington D.C., United States
- **Formed:** 29 July 1958

China launches its first solar exploration satellite

- **China** launched its first **solar exploration satellite** aboard a **Long March-2D rocket** into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province.
- Using the same carrier rocket, ten tiny satellites were launched into space, including an orbital atmospheric density detection experimental satellite and a commercial meteorological detection constellation experimental satellite.
- It was the 391st flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

China

- **Capital:** Beijing
- **Currency:** Renminbi
- **President:** Xi Jinping

Books & Authors

Gulzar releases his new book titled 'Actually...I Met Them: A Memoir'

- Indian legendary poet and lyricist **Gulzar** has released his new book titled '**Actually...I Met Them: A Memoir**' which was published by Penguin Random House India.

Rajnath Singh releases the book titled 'Veer Savarkar: The Man Who Could Have Prevented Partition'

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has released the book '**Veer Savarkar: The Man Who Could Have Prevented Partition**' authored by Uday Mahurkar.
- The publisher of this book is Rupa Publications India.
- This book explains the life of Sarvakar and will clear out rumours about his life.

Sports News

Indian fencer Bhavani Devi wins the Charlellville National Competition in France

- Indian fencer **Bhavani Devi** won the **Charlellville National Competition in France** at the women's sabre individual event.
- She is currently ranked 50th in the world and is the top-ranked fencer from India.
- She made history by becoming the first Indian to compete in the fencing sport at the Tokyo Summer Olympics 2020.

Indian chess Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa wins the Julius Baer Challengers Chess Tour

- Indian chess Grandmaster R. **Praggnanandhaa** won the **Julius Baer Challengers Chess Tour** after defeating Christopher Yoo of the USA.
- He became the **youngest Grandmaster** to win the Julius Baer Challengers Chess Tour.
- He took the top prize of \$12,500 and gained the right to play with the creamy layer of the chess world in the million-dollar Meltwater Champions Tour in 2022.

Chennai Super Kings beats Kolkata Knight Riders to win its 4th IPL title

- **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** beat **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)** by 27 runs to win its **fourth IPL (Indian Premier League) title** in Dubai. **MS Dhoni**-led **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** lift the IPL trophy for the fourth time, having previously won the tournament in **2010, 2011** and **2018**. **Faf du Plessis** won the Man of the Match award in the 2021 IPL finals.

- **Ruturaj Gaikwad** won the **Orange Cap** for scoring the highest run with **635 runs** from 16 matches in this edition (2021) of IPL.
- **Harshal Patel** from **RCB** won the **Purple Cap** for **32 wickets** in 15 games in this IPL season.

Divya Deshmukh becomes India's 21st Woman Chess Grandmaster

- Fifteen-year old **Divya Deshmukh** became India's **21st Woman Chess Grandmaster (WGM)** after achieving her **2nd International Master (IM)** at first saturday Grand Master (GM) in Budapest, Hungary.
- **Leon Mendonca** (Men) has become India's **67th Chess Grandmaster**.

FIFA reveals 'Ibha' as the official mascot of the U-17 FIFA Women's World Cup 2022 to be held in India

- Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has revealed an Asiatic lioness representing women's power, **Ibha**, as the official mascot of the **U-17 FIFA Women's World Cup 2022 to be held in India**.
- Ibha's mission is to empower women and girls in India and around the world to achieve their full potential.

FIFA

- **Headquarters:** Zurich, Switzerland
- **President:** Gianni Infantino

India clinches the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship for the eighth time in 2021

- **India** clinched the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship for the eighth time in 2021 defeating **Nepal**. This match was held at the National Football Stadium in **Male, Maldives**.
- Goals from Sunil Chhetri, Suresh Singh and Sahal Abdul Samad scored in the second half helped the Indian national football team (Blue Tigers) win.
- This is the Indian football team's first title victory under head coach Igor Stimac.

Books & Authors

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- The publisher of this book is Rupa Publications India.
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Important Days

World Statistics Day – 20 October

- **World Statistics Day** is observed every year on **20 October** to create awareness about the achievements of official statistics that were based on the values of service, professionalism and integrity.
- This day was created by the **United Nations Statistical Commission**, which was first marked in 2010.

International Chef's Day – 20 October

- **International Chef's Day** is celebrated every year on **20 October** across the globe as a tribute to the profession of culinary arts.
- Theme for 2021: '**Healthy Food for the Future**'.

International Day for Rural Women – 15 October

- **International Day for Rural Women** is observed every year on **15 October**. This day focuses on gender equality and empowering women in rural areas. This day was established by the **United Nations General Assembly** on **18 December 2007**.
- The theme of International Day for Rural Women for 2021 is "**Rural women cultivating good food for all**".

World Food Day – 16 October

- **World Food Day** is celebrated every year on **16 October** to commemorate the date (16 October) of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in **1945**.
- The theme of World Food Day for 2021 is "**Safe food now for a healthy tomorrow**".

National Philately Day – 13 October

- **National Philately Day** is observed on **13 October** as a part of the National Postal Week by the Department of Posts to promote the **collection and study of postage stamps**.
- Philately is considered the 'king of hobbies' as the collectors, through various philatelic items, develop a better appreciation of the history, culture, personalities and their societies.
- India Post celebrates the National Postal Week from 9–16 October every year aimed at generating a broad awareness about India Post's role and activities among the public and media at the national level.

World Standards Day – 14 October

- **World Standards Day** is observed every year on **14 October** to raise awareness about the importance of standardisation in the global economy among consumers, regulators and industry.
- Theme of World Standards Day for 2021: '**Standards for sustainable development goals – a shared vision for a better future**'.

International E-Waste Day – 14 October

- **International E-Waste Day** is Observed on **14 October** to promote the correct disposal of e-waste throughout the world with the aim to increase re-use, recovery and recycling rates.
- Theme of International E-Waste Day for 2021: '**Consumer is the key to circular economy**'.

World Students' Day – 15 October

- **World Students' Day** is observed on **15 October** every year in honour of the birth anniversary of former Indian President **A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**. This day aims to acknowledge the efforts of Dr. Kalam towards education and students.
- Theme of World Students' Day for 2021: '**Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace**'.
- The United Nations declared 15 October as World Students' Day in 2010.

Global Handwashing Day – 15 October

- **Global Handwashing Day** is observed on **15 October** every year to raise awareness about the importance of washing hands with soap and how it can help us prevent diseases and save lives.
- This day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008.
- Theme of Global Handwashing Day for 2021: '**Our future is at hand – Let's move forward together**'.

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction – 13 October

- The **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction** is observed on **13 October** every year to promote a global culture of risk awareness and disaster reduction.
- The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was established in 1989.
- Theme of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2021: "**International cooperation for developing countries to reduce disaster risk and disaster losses**".

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – 17 October

- The **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** is observed every year on **17 October** to raise awareness about the struggles of people living in poverty.
- This day provides an opportunity to express their concerns and remind everyone that they are the ones who will have to fight poverty first.

Obituary

New Zealand cricket umpire Fred Goodall passed away at 83

- **Fred Goodall**, a **New Zealand cricket umpire**, who was at the centre of a notably tense test series between New Zealand and the West Indies in 1980, passed away at the age of **83**.
- He stood in 24 Test matches and 15 one-day internationals between 1965 and 1988.

Former US Secretary Colin Powell passed away

- Former US Secretary of State **Colin Powell** has passed away at the age of 84 due to COVID-19 complications.
- He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and spent 35 years in the Army and rose to the rank of four-star general before becoming the first Black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Kannada Actor G. K. Govind Rao passed away

- Writer, theatre personality, Kannada film actor and activist **K. Govind Rao** passed away at the age of 86.
- He had participated in many pro-people movements and had authored many books and also acted in many plays, movies and TV serials.

Former international hockey player Saranjeet Singh passed away

- Former international hockey player **Saranjeet Singh** passed away at the age of 59.
- He was a former State Bank of India hockey player who played for Coronation Club in the local league, for Hyderabad juniors and seniors for many years in the late 1970s and 1980s, and for India in their 1983 tour of Germany.



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