

September Second Week Current Affairs

National News

India and Australia hold India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi

- **India and Australia** held the high-level **2+2 foreign and defence ministerial dialogue** in New Delhi to consolidate ties and strengthen the defence and security systems in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held talks with their Australian counterparts Marise Payne and Peter Dutton.

Union Government virtually inaugurates seven food processing projects as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'

- The Union Food Processing Industries Minister **Pashupati Kumar Paras** and the Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurated seven food processing projects in **Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu** to benefit farmers, processors and consumers of respective regions and adjoining areas.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launches the 'Medicines from the Sky' project

- Union Minister for Civil Aviation **Jyotiraditya Scindia** and Telangana Minister **K. T. Rama Rao** has launched the 'Medicines from the Sky' project to send medicines to primary health care centres using drones at Vikarabad in **Telangana**.
- It is an initiative of the Government of Telangana led by the emerging technologies wing of the state IT department in association with the World Economic Forum, NITI Aayog and HealthNet Global.

PMGDISHA campaign was launched for 100 per cent digital literacy in rural areas

- The **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) campaign** was launched under the PMGDISHA scheme, a flagship digital literacy scheme of the Union Government for rural areas to make all the digital villages 100 per cent digital literate

Prahlad Singh Patel launches Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021 under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II

- The Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Prahlad Singh Patel, launched **Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021** under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II to support the acceleration of Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus interventions and increase momentum for improving ODF sustainability as well as solid and liquid waste management activities across the villages in India.

6th India–Japan Maritime Affairs Dialogue was held virtually

- **India and Japan** held their **6th Maritime Affairs Dialogue** virtually for thoughts exchanges on developments in the maritime security environment, regional cooperation activities and opportunities for cooperation between India and Japan in the Indo–Pacific region.

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) extends the income tax returns filing deadline to 31 December

- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has extended the due dates for filing of Income Tax Returns (ITR) and various other reports of audit for the assessment year 2021–22 from 30 September 2021 to **31 December 2021**.

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chairman:** Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra

Union Government launches ‘Main Bhi Digital 3.0’ campaign for digital onboarding and training for street vendors

- Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) collaborated with the Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) to launch the special campaign ‘**Main Bhi Digital 3.0**’ for digital onboarding and training for street vendors under the PM SVANidhi scheme across 223 cities in India.

Union Cabinet approves an MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Chamber of Auditors of the Republic of Azerbaijan (CAAR)

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** and the **Chamber of Auditors of the Republic of Azerbaijan (CAAR)** to strengthen cooperation in the areas of training of audit, finance and accounting professionals.

Union Government appoints ten merchant bankers to manage the initial public offering (IPO) of LIC

- The Union Government has appointed top 10 global and Indian **merchant banks** to manage the **initial public offering (IPO)** of **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** of India.
- Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Citigroup, Nomura, Bank of America Securities, JM Financial, SBI Caps, Kotak Mahindra Capital, ICICI Securities and Axis Capital have been nominated to handle the IPO of LIC.

The 7th Foreign Office Consultations between India and Chile were held in Santiago

- The **7th Foreign Office Consultations** were held between **India** and **Chile in Santiago**. This consultation was led by Secretary (East) in the Union Ministry of External Affairs Riva Ganguly Das from the Indian side and the Chilean side was led by Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Carolina Valdivia Torres.
- Both the countries discussed the entire scope of their bilateral relations at this meeting, which included commerce and investments, defence, agriculture, health and pharmaceuticals, energy, space, Antarctic cooperation, disaster management and cultural and consular issues.

India and the United States launches 'Climate Action and Finance Mobilisation Dialogue' (CAFMD)

- **India** and the **United States** launched the Agenda 2030 partnership's Climate Action and Finance Mobilisation Dialogue (CAFMD) to renew the collaborations on climate change while also addressing the financial aspects.

Tamil Nadu Government increases reservation for women in government jobs from 30 to 40 per cent

- The **Tamil Nadu** Government has increased the quota for women in government jobs from **30% to 40%**.
- The percentage currently reserved for women in government jobs is 33%.

Tamil Nadu

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

State News

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurates NTT Global Data Centre project in Chennai

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M. K. Stalin** inaugurated the Rs. 2500 crores data centre project of **NTT Global Data Centre and Cloud Infrastructure** at Ambattur in Chennai.

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Two-day conference of the Tourism and Culture Ministers of the North-Eastern began in Guwahati

- A two-day conference of the Tourism and Culture Ministers of the North-Eastern states began in **Guwahati** to showcase the potential of tourism in this region and emphasised building confidence among the tourists in the wake of the COVID-19 situation.

Assam

- **Capital:** Dispur
- **Chief Minister:** Himanta Biswa Sarma
- **Governor:** Jagdish Mukhi

- **National Parks:** Orang National Park, Manas National Park, Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Kaziranga National Park, Nameri National Park, Raimona National Park and Dihing-Patkai National Park

Assam extends its 'Disturbed Area' status for six more months

- The Assam Government has declared the entire state of **Assam** as a **Disturbed Area** for **six more months** with effect from 28 August under Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.

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Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurates a monthly incentive scheme for priests

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin launched a scheme to provide an incentive of **Rs. 1000** per month to the priests working at 12,959 temples where the Oru Kala Pooja scheme (performing at least one pooja per day) is being implemented.
- An additional corpus fund of Rs. 130 crores was also created for doubling the corpus from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 3 lakhs for each temple under the one-time pooja scheme.

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Tamil Nadu Chief Minister introduces a Bill in TN Assembly to exempt Tamil Nadu students from National Entrance-cum-Eligibility Test

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M. K. Stalin** introduced a Bill in the Tamil Nadu Assembly seeking permanent **exemption** for Tamil Nadu students from appearing for the **National Eligibility-cum Entrance Test (NEET)** for admission to the undergraduate medical degree courses.
- This Bill seeks to provide admission based on the marks obtained in the qualifying examination (Plus Two) through the normalization method.

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Odisha celebrates Nuakhai festival

- **Nuakhai festival** is observed in **Odisha** on 11 September to celebrate newly harvested food by the farmers.

Odisha

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

Indian Air Force's first emergency landing field on a national highway was inaugurated in Rajasthan

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the first stretch of a national highway to be developed as an **Emergency Landing Field (ELF)** for the Indian Air Force on NH-925 at the Gandhav Bhakasar section, south of Barmer in **Rajasthan**.

Rajasthan

- **Capital:** Jaipur
- **Chief Minister:** Ashok Gehlot
- **Governor:** Kalraj Mishra
- **National Parks:** Desert National Park, Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Mukundra Hills National Park, Ranthambhore National Park, Sariska National Park

India and Denmark discuss cooperation against climate change

- Danish Climate, Energy and Utilities Minister Dan Jorgensen, on his visit to India, discussed general bilateral cooperation in the areas of **environment and climate change** with Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister **Bhupender Yadav**.
- They also discussed on the joint action plan to take forward the green strategic partnership in the environment sector.

Denmark

- **Capital:** Copenhagen
- **Currency:** Danish Krone

India's first indigenously designed high ash coal gasification based methanol production plant was inaugurated at Hyderabad

- India's first indigenously designed high ash coal gasification based methanol production plant was inaugurated at Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) R&D Centre, Hyderabad.

Methanol is utilised as a motor fuel to power ship engines and to generate clean power all over the world.

India's tallest air purification tower was installed in Chandigarh

- The **tallest air purification tower** of India with a height of 24 m was inaugurated at the Transport Chowk in **Chandigarh** to mark the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on 7 September.
- This is the highest air purifier in India, which will cover around a 500-metre radius around Transport Chowk in Chandigarh.

Chandigarh

- **Lieutenant Governor:** Banwarilal Purohit

IIT Bombay launches 'Project Udaan' to enable the translation of textbooks and other study materials

- **IIT Bombay** launched '**Project Udaan**' that enables the translation of textbooks and other study material related to engineering and other streams with an aim to break the language barrier that many students face when they join institutes of higher education.

Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor launches 'One Gram Panchayat–One DIGI–Pay Sakhi' Mission

- Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched '**One Gram Panchayat–One DIGI–Pay Sakhi**' Mission to promote door-to-door digital banking and financial services in the remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

International News

India and Denmark discuss cooperation against climate change

- Danish Climate, Energy and Utilities Minister Dan Jorgensen, on his visit to India, discussed general bilateral cooperation in the areas of **environment and climate change** with Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister **Bhupender Yadav**.
- They also discussed on the joint action plan to take forward the green strategic partnership in the environment sector.

Denmark

- **Capital:** Copenhagen
- **Currency:** Danish Krone

World's largest plant that captures carbon dioxide from the air started running in Iceland

- The world's largest plant named **Orca**, designed to suck carbon dioxide out of the air and turn it into rock, has started running in **Iceland**.
- It is constructed by Switzerland's Climeworks and Iceland's Carbfix.

Iceland

- **Capital:** Reykjavik
- **Currency:** Icelandic Krona

El Salvador becomes the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as official currency

- **El Salvador** became the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as an official currency.
- El Salvador will accept bitcoin payments in addition to the US Dollar, which has been its official currency since 2001.

El Salvador

- **Capital:** San Salvador
- **Currency:** United States Dollar

Banking & Economy

Paytm Payments Bank launches India's first FASTag based metro parking facility

- **Paytm Payments Bank** partnered with **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation** and launched **India's first FASTag-based metro parking facility** to facilitate the processing of all FASTag based transactions for cars having a valid FASTag sticker at the Kashmere Gate metro station.

Asian Development Bank and India sign a \$112 million loan to improve water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** signed a \$112 million loan to develop water supply infrastructure and strengthen the capacity of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery in **Jharkhand**.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

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

Jharkhand

- **Capital:** Ranchi
- **Chief Minister:** Hemant Soren
- **Governor:** Ramesh Bais

SBM Bank and Lendingkart partner to offer overdraft facilities to MSMEs

- **SBM Bank India** has tied up with fintech player **Lendingkart** for providing working capital and offer overdraft facilities to 1 lakh customers of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through the Lendingkart platform.

Bank of Baroda launches one-stop digital platform 'bob World'

- Bank of Baroda announced the launch of its digital banking platform '**bob World**' to provide an all-inclusive and seamless virtual banking experience, encompassing all digital banking services under one roof for the convenience of customers.

RBI removes UCO Bank out of prompt corrective action (PCA) framework over improved finances after 4 years

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted **UCO Bank** out of the **prompt corrective action (PCA)** list after four years on improvement in financial and credit profile.
- Due to high Net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and a negative Return on Assets (RoAs), the UCO Bank was placed under PCA in May 2017.

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)

UCO Bank

- **Headquarters:** Kolkata
- **MD & CEO:** Atul Kumar Goel

South Indian Bank launches a credit card named 'SIB-OneCard' with OneCard a credit card SIB-OneCard with OneCard

- **South Indian Bank**, in association with **OneCard**, has launched the **SIB-OneCard Credit Card**.
- The SIB-OneCard has a unique app-based onboarding process, which is in line with the South Indian Bank's vision of digital transformation.

Karnataka Bank launches a new point-of-sale device for merchant customers

- **Karnataka Bank**, in collaboration with **Mswipe Technologies Private Limited**, has launched a POS device (Point of Sales swiping machine) named **WisePOSGo**, that processes business payments for its merchant customers.
- This device is an all-in-one swiping machine loaded with advanced features such as contactless payment, mobile phone, QR code, pay by link, magnetic stripe and barcode scanner.

Asian Development Bank approves \$300 million loan agreement to expand rural connectivity in Maharashtra

- The Indian Government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) inked a **\$300 million** loan agreement to scale up the improvement of rural connectivity to help boost the rural economy in **Maharashtra**.

- The additional financing for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project will help improve an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges for a total length of 2,900 kilometres in 34 districts.

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- **Headquarters:** Mandaluyong, The Philippines
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SEBI introduces the T+1 settlement cycle on an optional basis from 1 January 2022

- SEBI has introduced the **T+1 (today plus one) settlement cycle** for completion of share transactions on an optional basis in a move to enhance market liquidity from **1 January 2022**.
- Currently, it takes 48 hours or more for the shares to be transferred into the client account in case of purchase deals.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

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

S&P Global Ratings projects India's GDP for FY22 at 9.50%

- **S&P Global Ratings** has revised India's growth forecast and expects the economy to grow **9.5 per cent** in 2021–22 (FY22) and 7.0 per cent in 2022–23 (FY 23).

HSBC India launches HSBC UniTransact for cross border payments

- **HSBC India** launched a digital proposition named '**HSBC UniTransact**' aimed at simplifying cross-border transactions. It is a one-stop solution, bringing clients the benefit of seamless integration of all aspects of transaction banking while minimising manual intervention through the course of the transaction journey.

India and Singapore announce a project to link UPI and PayNow for instant fund transfers

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has tied up with the **Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)** to link its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with Singapore's PayNow for instant money transfer, which will be operationalised by **July 2022**.
- This will enable users to make instant, low-cost fund transfers on a reciprocal basis without the need to onboard onto the other payment system.

Six entities completed their test phase in the 'first cohort' under RBI's regulatory sandbox scheme

- The **six entities**, namely Nucleus Software Exports Ltd (PaySe), Tap Smart Data Information Services Private Limited (Citycash), Natural Support Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd (IND-e-Cash), Naffa Innovations Pvt. Ltd (ToneTag), Ubona Technologies Pvt. Ltd (BHIM Voice) and

Eroute Technologies Pvt. Ltd, have completed the 'Test Phase' under the **first cohort of RBI's regulatory sandbox** based on the theme of retail payments.

- Their products mainly deal with offline digital payments, prepaid cards, contactless payment and voice-based UPI.

Tata Capital launches 'Loan Against Mutual Funds'

- Tata Capital Limited announced the launch of an end-to-end digital '**Loan Against Mutual Funds**' (LAMF), enabling customers to avail loans ranging from **Rs. 5 lakhs** to **Rs. 2 crores**.

Justice M. Venugopal was appointed as the Acting Chairperson of NCLAT

- Justice **M. Venugopal** was appointed as the Acting Chairperson of the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** after the retirement of Chairperson Justice S. J. Mukhopadhaya.

Jim Lanzone was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Yahoo

- **Yahoo** announced the appointment of Tinder Chief Executive Officer **Jim Lanzone** as its new Chief Executive Officer. He succeeds Guru Gowrappan.

Vinod Kannan will be appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Vistara

- **Vinod Kannan** will be appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Vistara from 1 January 2022. He will replace Leslie Thng.

Taro Kono is set to replace Yoshihide Suga as the Prime Minister of Japan

- Japan's vaccination minister **Taro Kono** is all set to replace Yoshihide Suga as the Prime Minister of Japan, according to a poll conducted by Nikkei and TV Tokyo.

Appointments

Aziz Akhannouch was named as the Prime Minister of Morocco

- King Mohammed VI of Morocco has appointed **Aziz Akhannouch** as the Prime Minister of Morocco.

Kingdom of Morocco

- **Capital:** Rabat
- **Currency:** Moroccan Dirham
- **King:** Mohammed VI

Najib Mikat was elected as the Prime Minister of Lebanon

- Lebanon's richest man **Najib Mikati** became the Prime Minister once again, ending over a year of uncertainty after the previous administration quit following the devastating explosion of the Beirut port.

Lebanon

- **Capital:** Beirut
- **Currency:** Lebanese Pound

Bhupendra Patel was appointed as the Chief Minister of Gujarat

- **Bhupendra Patel** was appointed as the new Chief Minister of Gujarat after the resignation of Vijay Rupani.

Gujarat

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

Sardar Iqbal Singh was appointed as the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities

- Former Punjab-cadre Indian Police Service (IPS) **Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura** was appointed as the **Chairman of National Commission for Minorities** replacing Ghayorul Hasan.

Comptroller and Auditor General of India G. C. Murmu was elected as the Chairman of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI)

- India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) **Girish Chandra Murmu** was elected as **the Chairman of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) assembly** for a three-year term from 2024 to 2027.

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani resigns

- Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** submitted his resignation from his post to Governor Acharya Devvrat after being in power for five years.

Gujarat

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

A.G. Thankappan was appointed as the Chairman of the Spices Board of India

- **A. G. Thankappan** was appointed as the **Chairman of the Spices Board of India** for a period of three years.

A. N. Ravi was appointed as the Governor of Tamil Nadu

- Governor of Nagaland and Government of India's interlocutor for Naga talks, **R. N. Ravi**, was appointed as **the Governor of Tamil Nadu**.

SALEM INSTITUTE OF BANKING

- The Union Government has announced new governors for Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Nagaland.
- Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit was shifted to Punjab while Nagaland Governor R. N. Ravi replaced Purohit. Former Deputy Chief of Army Lt. General Gurmit Singh was appointed as the new governor of Uttarakhand after the resignation of Baby Rani Maurya.

Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya resigns

- Uttarakhand Governor **Baby Rani Maurya** submitted her resignation, two years before completing her tenure.

Uttarakhand

- **Capital:** Dehradun
- **Chief Minister:** Pushkar Singh Dhama
- **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

Nirlep Singh Rai was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)

- **Nirlep Singh Rai** was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of **National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)**.
- Prior to this appointment, he held the position of Director (Technical) in NFL.

Senior advocate Gopal Mukherjee was appointed as the Advocate General of West Bengal

- Senior advocate of the Calcutta High Court **Gopal Mukherjee** was appointed as the Advocate General of West Bengal after the resignation of Kishore Datta.

West Bengal

Capital: Kolkata

- **Chief Minister:** Mamata Banerjee
- **Governor:** Jagdeep Dhankhar
- **National Parks:** Buxa National Park, Gorumara National Park, Neora Valley National Park, Jaldapara National Park, Singalila National Park, Sundarbans National Park

Lieutenant General (Retd.) Gurmeet Singh was appointed as the Uttarakhand Governor

- Lieutenant General (Retired) **Gurmeet Singh** was appointed as the **eighth Governor** of Uttarakhand. He succeeded Baby Rani Maurya after her resignation.

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Agreements and MoUs signed

Pine Labs partners with OneCard to enable the EMI option at PoS terminals for their customers

- **Pine Labs** partnered with a mobile-based credit card **OneCard** to extend its **equated monthly installments (EMI)** offering to all OneCard credit card holders to avail interest-free EMI on their credit cards for all their mid and high-value purchases made at Pine Labs Point of Sale (PoS) terminals across India.

Amazon Pay partners with Kuvera to offer wealth management services

- **Amazon Pay** has partnered with **Kuvera** to offer **wealth management services** in India through its digital payment platform Amazon Pay while Kuvera will provide services, products and technology know-how to create an exclusive experience for Amazon Pay's users to facilitate investments into mutual funds and fixed deposits.

SIDBI collaborates with the Assam Government to promote start-ups

- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** agreed to set up an innovation fund in partnership with the **Assam Government** to promote start-ups, in which SIDBI handed over a commitment letter of Rs. 350 crores to the Assam Government under the cluster development fund.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

- **Headquarters:** Lucknow
- **MD & CEO:** S. Ramann

Punjab & Sind Bank ties up with Indiabulls for co-lending alliance

- **Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB)** has entered into a strategic co-lending alliance with **Indiabulls Commercial Credit** and **Indiabulls Housing Finance (IHFL)** for MSME and priority sector housing loans.

DBS partners with SWIFT for real time cross border payment tracking

- **DBS**, in partnership with Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (**SWIFT**) **Global Payments Innovation (gpi)**, launched real-time online tracking for cross-border collections for businesses in India.

Awards and Recognitions

Bank of Baroda tops the MeitY digital payment scorecard for 2020–2021

- **Bank of Baroda** topped in the payment scorecard issued by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for the month of February and March 2021.
- The scorecard ranks 44 banks (Public Sector Banks, Private Banks, Foreign Banks, Payments Banks, Small Finance Banks) on various parameters on the digital business.

IIT Madras was ranked best institution in India in the National Institutional Rankings Framework (NIRF) Ranking 2021

- According to the National Institutional Rankings Framework (NIRF) Ranking 2021, **the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** was ranked as the best institute in India in the ‘Overall’ and ‘Engineering’ categories for the third consecutive year.
- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru was ranked the best among the research institutions and was ranked at the second place in the overall ranking.
- IIT Bombay took the third spot on the top universities list.

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) bags the Rajbhasha Kirti Award for the second consecutive year

- Navratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** has been conferred the prestigious ‘**Rajbhasha Kirti**’ Award under the PSU category (‘C’ region) for the second consecutive year.
- This award has been instituted by the Department of Official Language (OL), Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Susanne Clark wins the 2021 Women’s Prize for Fiction

- British writer **Susanna Clarke** won the prestigious **Women’s Prize for Fiction 2021** for her **mind-tweaking fantasy novel ‘Piranesi’**.

Science and Technology

ISRO helps Skyroot Aerospace to build a launch vehicle

- The Department of Space has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Skyroot Aerospace**, allowing the company access to **ISRO** (Indian Space Research Organisation) resources and expertise for the development and testing of space launch vehicle subsystems and systems.

Co-WIN develops a new Application Programming Interface to check the vaccination status of an individual

- Co-WIN has developed a new Application Programming Interface (API) called ‘**Know Your Customer’s**’ or ‘**Client’s Vaccination Status – KYC-VS**’ to check an individual’s status of vaccination through Co-WIN.
- If the response of Co-WIN is 0 means the person is not vaccinated while a response of 1 means the person is partially vaccinated and a response of 2 means the person is fully vaccinated.

China successfully launches the earth observation satellite Gaofen-5 02

- **China** has successfully launched a new earth observation satellite **Gaofen-5 02**, from the **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre** into space to improve China’s hyperspectral observation capacity of the atmosphere, water and land.

China

- **Capital:** Beijing

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

Google introduces a Startups Lab program for small news organisations in India

- Google introduced a **Startups Lab program** which is a part of its Google News Initiative (GNI), in which the company will work with independent local or single-subject media organisations to find a pathway to financial and operational sustainability through coaching, skills training and other support.

Sports News

Daniel Ricciardo wins the Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2021

- McLaren's **Daniel Ricciardo** won the Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2021 held at Autodromo Nazionale Monza, Italy.

Great Britain's Emma Raducanu won the US Open women's singles final 2021

- In the 2021 US Open women's singles final, Great Britain's **Emma Raducanu** defeated Canada's Leylah Fernandez to become the first qualifier to win a Grand Slam title.

Sam Stosur and Zhang Shuai won the women's doubles title at the US Open women's doubles final 2021

- Sam Stosur of Australia and **Zhang Shuai** of China won the women's doubles title at the US Open women's doubles final 2021 against Americans Caty McNally and Coco Gauff.

Patrick Cantlay won the PGA Tour Player of the Year award for 2021

- **Patrick Cantlay** was conferred with the 2021 PGA Tour Player of the Year award after four wins in the tour.

Joe Root and Eimear Richardson were named as the ICC Players of the Month for August 2021

- England test captain **Joe Root** and **Eimear Richardson** of Ireland were named as the **ICC Players of the Month for August 2021**.

Lasith Malinga announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- Sri Lankan pacer **Lasith Malinga** announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- He is one of the greatest T20 bowlers and was a captain of Sri Lanka's 2014 T20 World Cup winning team.

IOC suspends North Korea from the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has suspended **North Korea** from the **2022 Beijing Winter Olympics** after the country failed to participate in this 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Daniil Medvedev won the US Open 2021 men's singles title 2021

- Russia's **Daniil Medvedev** won his first Grand Slam trophy after defeating World no. 1 tennis player Novak Djokovic from Serbia and clinched the US Open 2021 men's singles title at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York.

Zimbabwe batsman Brendan Taylor announces retirement from international cricket

- Former Zimbabwe captain **Brendan Taylor** announced his retirement from international cricket.
- He made his debut in 2004 in a One Day International (ODI) against Sri Lanka and went on to become one of Zimbabwe's finest-ever cricketers in international cricket.

Important Days

National Forest Martyrs' Day – 11 September

- **National Forest Martyrs' Day** is observed on **11 September** to pay tributes to those who laid down their lives in order to protect the jungles, forests and wildlife across India.

World Suicide Prevention Day – 10 September

- **World Suicide Prevention Day** is observed on **10 September** to create awareness among people worldwide to stop suicide through various activities.
- World Suicide Prevention Day is organised by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH).

Engineers' Day – 15 September

- **Engineers' Day** is celebrated on **15 September** every year on the birth anniversary of legendary engineer M. Visvesvaraya.

International Day of Democracy – 15 September

- **International Day of Democracy** is observed on **15 September** every year to provide an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world.

National Hindi Day – 14 September

- **National Hindi Diwas or Hindi Day** is observed on **14 September** every year to promote Hindi as the 'Matra Bhasha' or mother tongue of India.

Obituary

Kashmiri writer Aziz Hajini passed away

- **Aziz Hajini**, a well-known writer and former secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, passed away at the age of 64.

Women's rights activist Sonal Shukla passed away

- Noted women's rights activist **Sonal Shukla**, popularly known as Sonal Ben, passed away after cardiac arrest in Mumbai at the age of 80.

Former world hammer record-holder Yuriy Sedykh passed away

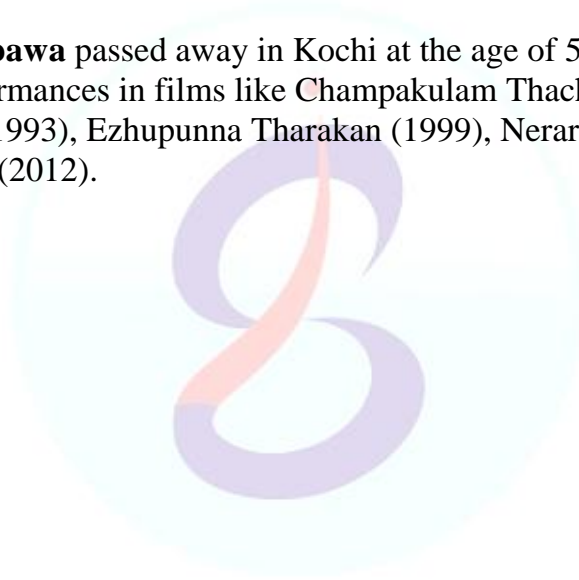
- Former world hammer record-holder and two-time Olympic champion **Yuriy Sedykh** passed away at the age of 66.

Former Union Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Oscar Fernandes passed away

- Rajya Sabha MP and former Union Minister **Oscar Fernandes** passed away in Mangalore at the age of 80.

Malayalam actor Rizabawa passed away

- Malayalam actor **Rizabawa** passed away in Kochi at the age of 55.
- He delivered key performances in films like Champakulam Thachan (1992), Kabuliwala (1993), Bandhukal Shatrupal (1993), Ezhupunna Tharakan (1999), Nerariyan CBI (2005) and The King and the Commissioner (2012).



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