

National News

Union Culture Minister launches ‘Bujurgon Ki Baat-Desh Ke Saath’ programme in New Delhi

- Union Culture Minister **G. Kishan Reddy** launched a ‘**Bujurgon Ki Baat-Desh Ke Saath**’ programme in New Delhi aimed at enhancing the interaction between the youth and the elderly persons who are 95 years and above and have spent around 18 years in India before independence.
- This is a unique programme in which India’s youth will spend time and interact with the elderly.

Union Government constitutes a task force and expert committee headed by Vinod Kumar Tiwari to map on coal-based hydrogen production

- The Union Government constituted a task force and expert committee headed by Additional Secretary (Coal) **Vinod Kumar Tiwari** to prepare a road map for coal-based hydrogen production.
- This is aimed at contributing to Indian Government’s agenda of becoming a hydrogen-based economy in a clean manner.

Union Cabinet approves Rs. 10,683 crores for the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for textile sector

- The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the **production linked incentive (PLI)** scheme for the textile sector with incentives worth **Rs. 10,683 crores**.
- This scheme will have two categories — for investment up to Rs. 100 crores and another one for investment up to Rs. 300 crores. The Union Government expects this scheme to bring in a total investment of over Rs. 19,000 crores in five years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurates the ‘Shikshak Parv’ conclave

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated the ‘**Shikshak Parv**’ conclave and launched multiple key initiatives in the education sector.
- The theme of ‘Shikshak Parv 2021’ is “**Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India**”.
- He also launched five initiatives on this occasion, including Indian sign language dictionary containing 10,000 words, Talking Books (audiobooks for visually impaired), School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework (SQAAF) of CBSE, NISTHA teachers’ training programme for NIPUN Bharat and Vidyanjali Portal for facilitating education of volunteers, donors and CSR contributors for school development.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the 24th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council in New Delhi

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the **24th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, to discuss the state of the financial sector and a strategy to aid the pandemic-affected economy's recovery.

Coal India Limited launches new software for the assessment of coal resources

- **Coal India Limited (CIL)**, under the Union Ministry of Coal, as launched a new software named '**Spectral Enhancement SPE**' to identify thin coal seams under the earth crust and improve assessment of coal resources using seismic survey during the coal exploration process.

President of India Ram Nath Kovind confers National Teachers' Awards to 44 teachers across India

- Indian President Ram Nath Kovind presented **National Teachers' Awards to 44 teachers** across India for their contribution towards the development of innovative teaching methods.

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind presents the President's Colour to the Indian Naval Aviation

- Indian President Ram Nath Kovind presented the **Indian Naval Aviation (INA)** with the **President's Colour** at INS Hansa in Goa for the recognition of the yeoman service rendered both during peace and combat.

Union Ayush Ministry launches 'AYUSH AAPKE DWAR' campaign

- **Union Ayush Ministry** launched a campaign named '**AYUSH AAPKE DWAR**' in more than 45 locations across India to distribute medicinal plant saplings to 75 lakh households in one year.

India to be the first Asian country to launch a plastics pact

- World-Vast Fund for Nature–India (WWF India) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have collaborated to construct a platform '**India Plastic Pact**'.
- India has become the first Asian country to develop a plastics pact, launching a ground-breaking new initiative to bring together leading businesses at a national level to make commitments for building a circular system for plastics.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually Address the 6th Eastern Economic Forum held in Vladivostok

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the plenary session of the sixth **Eastern Economic Forum (EEF)** held in Vladivostok, Russia.

- He stressed the importance of greater economic and commercial engagement between the two sides in line with the ‘Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership’ and also highlighted the importance of health and pharma sectors as important areas of cooperation.

Union Finance Minister virtually attends the 11th UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue

- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** led the Indian delegation in the **11th round of UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) that was held virtually.**
- This dialogue covered the discussions on economic cooperation on multilateral issues, including G20 and COP26.

Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting forms a committee to review existing guidelines of the Journalist Welfare Scheme

- Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has constituted a ten-member committee headed by **Ashok Kumar Tandon** to take a look at the existing guidelines of the **Journalist Welfare Scheme** and make appropriate recommendations for changes to the guidelines.

Union AYUSH Ministry launches the ‘Yoga-Break’ app for working professionals to de-stress at their workplaces

- Union Minister of AYUSH Sarbanand Sonowal released the ‘**Yoga-Break**’ app for working professionals to de-stress, refresh and refocus at work in order to boost productivity.
- This mobile app will have a five-minute protocol that includes Asanas, Pranayama and Dhyana.

NMPB under the Union AYUSH Ministry launches a national medicinal plants cultivation campaign

- The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under the Union Ministry of AYUSH launched a **national campaign** to promote the cultivation of medicinal plants in India as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (75 years of India’s independence).
- The aim of this campaign is to increase the income of farmers and realise the dream of green India.

State News

TANGEDCO plans to set up solar power parks with battery storage systems

- **Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO)** will set up a 4000 MW solar power park to meet the growing energy demand and plans to set up solar power parks with battery storage systems in all the districts in Tamil Nadu.

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

Delhi Government launches the ‘Business Blasters’ programme to encourage entrepreneurship

- The **Delhi Government** launched the ‘**Business Blasters**’ programme, which will be implemented in all Delhi Government schools under the ‘entrepreneurship mindset curriculum’, aimed at developing young entrepreneurs at the school level.
- The objective of this programme under the curriculum is to prepare the children to invest, get rid of their fear of starting a business and earn profit.
- As part of this programme, students of classes 11 and 12 will be provided seed money of Rs. 2000 to start a business.

New Delhi

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

Arunachal Pradesh launches 2 schemes for self-reliance in agriculture and horticulture

- **Arunachal Pradesh** Government launched two schemes, namely ‘**AtmaNirbhar Krishi Yojna**’ for the agriculture sector and ‘**AtmaNirbhar Bagwani Yojna**’ for horticulture.
- A total of **Rs. 120 crores** was allotted to the two concerned departments of agriculture and horticulture with Rs. 60 crores allotted for each scheme.

Arunachal Pradesh

- **Capital:** Itanagar
- **Chief Minister:** Pema Khandu
- **Governor:** B. D. Mishra

Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor Tourist Village Network under the Mission Youth initiative

- Under the Mission Youth initiative, Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha virtually launched the **Jammu and Kashmir Tourist Village Network**, which aims to transform 75 villages in the Union Territory (UT) noted for historical, scenic beauty and cultural value into tourist villages.

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

Haryana Government announces a cash reward of Rs. 6 crores for Manish Narwal and Rs. 4 crores for Singhraj Adhana

- The **Haryana Government** announced a reward of **Rs. 6 crores** for Tokyo Paralympics gold medallist Manish Narwal and **Rs. 4 crores** for Tokyo Paralympics silvermedallist Singhraj Adhana.
- Haryana Government will also provide government jobs to both para-athletes in order to honour their achievements at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.

Haryana

- **Capital:** Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister:** Manohar Lal Khattar
- **Governor:** Bandaru Dattatraya
- **National Parks:** Sultanpur National Park, Kalesar National Park
- **Dance:** Phag, Dhamal, Loor, Khoria

Gujarat is set to host the 12th Defence Expo 2022 in Gandhinagar

- The **Union Ministry of Defence** and the **Gujarat** Government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for organising **the Defence Expo 2022**.
- DefExpo 2022 will focus on showcasing India as an emerging hub for military hardware manufacturing.

Gujarat

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

Ladakh declares snow leopard as its state animal

- The administration of the Ladakh Union Territory declared the **snow leopard as its state animal**.
- The black-necked crane was named as the state bird of Ladakh.

Ladakh

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

Assam Cabinet decides to rename Rajiv Gandhi National Park

- The Assam Cabinet decided to rename **Rajiv Gandhi National Park** as **Orang National Park**, taking into account the requests made by the Adivasi and tea tribal communities of Assam.
- Rajiv Gandhi National Park covers an area of 79.28 sq. km. It was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 1985 and a national park in 1999.

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, Dihing-Patkai National Park

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor inaugurates 'Saath' initiative for SHG women

- The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha launched the rural enterprises acceleration program titled '**Saath**' for self help group (SHG) women.
- This initiative will stress on mentoring and market linkages of products created by the SHG women and make them independent and strong in social and financial aspects.

Jammu and Kashmir

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- **Lakes:** Mansar Lake, Nagin Lake, Wular Lake, Surinsar Lake, Dal Lake

International News

Central banks of Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and South Africa is set to launch the cenbank digital currency scheme

- Central banks of Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and South Africa launch **cenbank digital currency scheme**. The project will allow financial institutions to transact directly with each other in the digital currencies issued by participating central banks.

India launches soft skills training programme for women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh

- The High Commission of India, in association with the ICT Ministry of Bangladesh and Women & E-commerce and Silk Oak Global Limited launched a one-year **soft skills training programme in Dhaka, Bangladesh**, to develop communication skills and presentation skills, among other soft skills beneficial to facilitate their business efforts.

Banking & Economy

NPCI and Fiserv jointly launch 'nFiNi' programme

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and Nasdaq-listed **Fiserv Inc** have agreed to collaborate on the launch of the plug-and-play RuPay credit card stack, 'nFiNi', to expand the market base by enabling fintech firms and banks on credit cards.
- This BaaS (Banking-as-a-Service) programme provides fintech firms and banks with a ready-to-use stack of services for issuing RuPay credit cards.

National Payments Corporation of India

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Founded:** 2008

HDFC Bank signs an MoU with National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) to offer credit rating guidance to MSMEs

- **HDFC Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)** to provide credit rating guidance to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) throughout India.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) partners with LIC Housing Finance to provide home loan products

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** and **LIC Housing Finance** announced a strategic partnership agreement to provide home loan products to more than 4.5 million IPPB customers.
- This agreement will help IPPB expand its range of products and services and cater to the banking and financial needs of customers, especially unbanked and underserved across India.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

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

LIC picks up nearly 4% stake in Bank of India through open market operations

LIC has picked up nearly 4 per cent equity shares of the Bank of India through an open market transaction, which has now increased to 7.05 per cent with 3.17 per cent from the last acquisition.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Founded:** 1 September 1956

Cashfree is set to launch its Banking-as-a-Service (BaaS) offering 'Accounts'

- Cashfree has launched its Banking-as-a-Service (BaaS) offering 'Accounts' to help neobanks and fintech platforms integrate banking services into their product.
- 'Accounts' by Cashfree will enable 100% paperless bank account creation instantly.

ADB approves a \$150 million loan for the urban poor housing project in Tamil Nadu

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** granted a **\$150 million** loan to assist the urban poor in **Tamil Nadu**, India, to provide access to inclusive, resilient and sustainable housing.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

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

Federal Bank partners with VISA and launches a credit card

- **Federal Bank** partnered with **VISA** to establish a credit card to boost its unsecured, high-yielding book and complete the suite of banking products.

Federal Bank

- **Headquarters:** Kochi, Kerala
- **CEO:** Shyam Srinivasan

HDFC Life Insurance is set to acquire Exide Life Insurance for Rs. 6687 crores

- Exide Life Insurance is likely to be acquired by HDFC Life Insurance in a deal worth **Rs. 6687 crores** to increase its customer base in a largely untapped market.

Eight banks to go live on account aggregator network

- Eight major banks, namely **State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, IDFC First Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank and Federal Bank**, have joined the **account aggregator network**, which will enable customers to easily access and share their financial data.
- Neo bank Fi is the first fintech to join the account aggregator network.

PhonePe launches 'PhonePe Pulse' to make transparency in data transaction

- **PhonePe** launched an interactive geospatial website named **PhonePe Pulse** that provides insights and granular data on digital payment trends in India and makes transaction data transparent.

PhonePe

- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru
- **Founded:** 2015

New Development Bank approves Bangladesh as its new member

- **Bangladesh** was approved as a new member of the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, which was founded by the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries in 2015.
- The Board of Governors of the NDB has given the Bank permission to begin official negotiations with potential members in late 2020. The NDB authorised the entrance of the **United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uruguay and Bangladesh** as its first three member countries after a round of successful negotiations.

New Development Bank (NDB):

- **Headquarters:** Shanghai, China
- **President:** Marcos Troyjo
- **Founded:** 15 July 2014

RBI sets up a five-member committee headed by P. Vasudevan on new umbrella entity (NUE) licenses

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a **five-member** committee headed by **P. Vasudevan** to review applications and give recommendations on new umbrella entity (NUE) licenses to build a settlement system similar to the unified payments interface (UPI) with the new umbrella entity (NUE) licenses.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Formation:** 1 April 1935
- **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das
- **Deputy Governors:** M. K. Jain, M. D. Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao and T. Rabi Sankar

- **Subsidiaries:** Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Limited (BRBNML)

SBI opens a floating ATM on a houseboat at Srinagar's Dal Lake

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has opened an ATM on a houseboat at **Dal Lake in Srinagar** for the convenience of locals and tourists.
- It was inaugurated by the SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara.
- The bank launched its first floating cash dispenser at Jhankar Yacht, Kerala, in 2004.

PayNearby launches 'PayNearby NeoDukaan' to modernise trade and accelerate digital adoption

- PayNearby, in association with Retailers Association's Skill Council of India (RASCI), launched '**PayNearby NeoDukaan**' to digitally upgrade its retail partners and gear them towards a better livelihood.
- It is a one-stop-shop platform empowering retailers to modernise trade and accelerate digital adoption. It also aims to offer a host of tech-enabled trade offerings to drive mass acceptance.

Appointments

S. L. Tripathy was appointed as the CMD of United India Insurance Company Limited

- The Union Government has appointed **Satyajit Tripathy** as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Chennai-based **United India Insurance Company Limited (UII)** till February 2024.
- He is currently serving as the General Manager and Director at the New India Assurance Company Limited.

United India Insurance Company Limited

- **Headquarters:** Chennai
- **Founded:** 1938

Harsha Bhupendra Bangari was appointed as the Managing Director of EXIM Bank

- The Union Government has appointed **Harsha Bhupendra Bangari** as the Managing Director (MD) of Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank). He is presently the Deputy Managing Director at EXIM Bank.

Exim Bank (Export and Import Bank of India)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai

Piyush Goyal was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 meet

- Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 meet.
- India will formally assume the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022.

V. Vaidyanathan was re-appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of IDFC FIRST Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of **V. Vaidyanathan** as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of **IDFC FIRST Bank** for three years.

Cyrus Poncha becomes the Vice-President of the Asian Squash Federation

- The Secretary of Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) **Cyrus Poncha** was elected as the Vice-President of the Asian Squash Federation (ASF) for a period of four years.

Arun Kumar Singh was appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director of BPCL

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the proposal of the Union Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) to appoint **Arun Kumar Singh** as the new Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1952

Smriti Madhana and Rani Rampal were appointed as the brand ambassadors of Equitas Small Finance Bank

- Equitas Small Finance Bank has appointed Indian women's hockey player **Rani Rampal** and Indian women's cricketer **Smriti Mandhana** as their brand ambassadors.

Equitas Small Finance Bank

- **Headquarters:** Chennai
- **MD & CEO:** P. N. Vasudevan

Lovlina Borgohain was appointed as the brand ambassador of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan of Assam

- Olympic bronze medallist **Lovlina Borgohain** was in as the brand ambassador for **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) of Assam**.

Suman Sharma was appointed as the Managing Director of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)

- The Union Government has appointed **Suman Sharma** as the new Managing Director (MD) of **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)**.

Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 2011

Former SBI Chief Rajnish Kumar was appointed as the Economic Affairs Advisor to the Andhra Pradesh Government

- The former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI) **Rajnish Kumar** was appointed as an economic affairs advisor to the **Andhra Pradesh** Government in the rank of Cabinet Minister for a period of two years.

State Bank of India (SBI)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman:** Dinesh Kumar Khara
- **Tagline:** “The Banker to Every Indian”

Pankaj Kumar was appointed as the Director (Offshore) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has appointed **Pankaj Kumar** as its Director (Offshore).
- He will be responsible for the entire gamut of offshore oil & gas fields of ONGC.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 14 August 1956

Kausik Chanda was appointed as a Judge of Calcutta High Court

- Justice **Kaushik Chanda** was appointed as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court.
- He would have tenure till **2036** as a judge of the high court.

Vartika Shukla becomes the first woman CMD of Engineers India Limited

- **Vartika Shukla** took charge as the first woman Chairperson and Managing Director (CMD) of public sector enterprise **Engineers India Limited (EIL)**.

Alar Karis was elected as the President of Estonia

- The Estonian Parliament elected **Alar Karis** as Estonia’s next President.
- Alar Karis succeeds **Kerti Kaljulaid**, the first female President of Estonia.

Estonia

- **Capital:** Tallinn
- **Currency:** Euro

Avani Lekhara was appointed as the brand ambassador of ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ campaign in Rajasthan

- **Avani Lekhara** was appointed as the brand ambassador for the Rajasthan Government’s ‘Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao’ campaign.

B. Mohapatra was appointed as the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes

The Union Government confirmed the appointment of IRS officer **Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra** as the **Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.

Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit gets an additional charge of Punjab and Chandigarh

- Tamil Nadu Governor **Banwarilal Purohit** was given the additional charge of **Punjab** and the Union Territory of **Chandigarh**.
- He succeeds V. P. Singh Badnore.

Pankaj Kumar Singh was appointed as the Director-General of the Border Security Force

- A 1988 batch officer of the Indian Police Service of Rajasthan Cadre, **Pankaj Kumar Singh** took over as the 29th Director- General of the Border Security Force (BSF).

Ranks and Indices

India emerged as the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world: Hurun Research Institute

- **India** emerged as the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world after the US and China released by the Hurun Research Institute.
- India has added three unicorns every month over the last year, bringing the total number to 51 ahead of the United Kingdom (32) and Germany (18).

University of Oxford tops the Times World University Rankings 2022

- The **University of Oxford** was ranked at the top of the Times World University Rankings 2022. IISc Bangalore was placed at 301–350 and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar was placed in the 351–400 bracket. IIT Indore was placed in the 401–500 bracket.

Agreements and MoUs signed

Coal India Limited signs an MoU and contributed Rs. 75 crores to the National Sports Development Fund of the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

- The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) of the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Coal India Limited (CIL) for a CSR contribution of **Rs. 75 crores**.

NITI Aayog and Gujarat University sign a Statement of Intent (SoI) to promote cooperation in agriculture

- A statement of intent (SoI) was signed by **NITI Aayog** and the Indian Institute of Sustainability, **Gujarat University**, with the objective of encouraging and promoting cooperation in the agricultural and related areas.
- The Statement of Intent (SoI) focuses on technical collaboration between the two institutions to strengthen knowledge-sharing and policy development in India.

IREDA inks a pact with TANGEDCO for renewable energy projects

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)** has entered into a pact with **Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO)** for providing technical expertise in developing **renewable energy projects and raising funds**.

Ola Electric ties up with banks and financial institutions for loans to customers

- Leading banks and financial institutions, including **HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Prime and TATA Capital**, have partnered with **Ola Electric** to provide loans to clients for its S1 electric scooter. The electric scooter will be available for purchase from 8 September.

SBM Bank partners with OneCard to launch a mobile-based credit card

- **SBM Bank** has partnered with **OneCard** to launch a mobile-based credit card towards acknowledging and celebrating the expanding digital ecosystem of India.
- This collaboration is in line with smart banking for developing products that address specific consumer needs and provide innovative solutions.

Ladakh signs an MoU with Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for the improvement of the road network

- The administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh and the **Border Roads Organization (BRO)** inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the upgradation of Ladakh's road network.

Ladakh

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

APEDA signs an MoU with ICAR–Indian Institute of Millet Research to boost farmers income

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **ICAR-Indian Institute of Millet Research** to promote value addition and boost farmers' income by increasing exports through quality production and processing.

India and the US signs a project agreement for air-launched unmanned aerial vehicle

- **India and the United States (US)** have signed a project agreement for air-launched unmanned aerial vehicle.
- Union Ministry of Defence and the US Department of Defence signed a project agreement (PA) for air-launched unmanned aerial vehicle (ALUAV) under the Joint Working Group Air Systems in the **Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)**, towards deepening defence technology collaboration between the two nations through co-development of defence equipment.

Nigeria is set to partner with Bitt Inc. to launch a digital currency named 'eNaira'

- Nigeria will work with Bitt Inc. as a technical partner to launch its own cryptocurrency, the '**eNaira**', which would operate as a wallet against which customers can hold existing funds in their bank account.

Awards and Recognitions

Namita Gokhale receives the 7th Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award

- **Namita Gokhale** won the **7th Yamin Hazari Woman of Substance Award** in 2021.
- It is organised by a collective of women professionals from the year 2015, the annual award honours Yamin Hazarika, the first woman from Northeast India to be selected for DANIPS, a federal police service that administered Delhi and the Union Territories in 1977.

Alenjandro Prieto from Mexico won the Bird Photographer of the Year 2021

- Mexico's **Alejandro Prieto**, who photographed a greater roadrunner staring up at the barbed-wire-clad border wall between the USA and Mexico in Arizona, is the Bird Photographer of the Year 2021.

NTPC Ramagundam bags the the CII Energy Leader Award 2021

- National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ramagundam bagged the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Energy Leader Award 2021. This is the third consecutive year that the NTPC Ramagundam has bagged this award.

SALEM INSTITUTE OF BANKING

- The CII Energy Leader Award recognises outstanding achievement and contribution in the areas of energy efficiency and environmental protection and implementation of the energy management system as per ISO 50001 standards.

National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
- **Chairman and Managing Director:** Gurdeep Singh
- **Founded:** 1975

Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2021 were announced

- The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) announced the 63rd edition of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2021.
- This award is given in to individuals for their outstanding contributions in government service, public service, community leadership, journalism, literature and creative communication arts, peace and international understanding and emergent leadership.

The winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2021 are:

Name of the person	Country	
Roberto Ballon	Philippines	For conservation of natural resources and helping communities improve their income through livelihood programs
Steven Muncy	Southeast Asia	For helping the displaced refugees of Southeast Asia to rebuild their lives
Muhammad Amjad Saqib	Pakistan	For helping people through social entrepreneurship
Firdausi Qadri	Bangladesh	For her untiring contributions to vaccine development, advanced biotechnological therapeutics and critical research that saved millions of lives
Watchdoc	Indonesia	technology in its effort to transform Indonesia's media landscape

FSSAI awards 5-Star 'Eat Right Station' certification to Chandigarh Railway Station

- **Chandigarh Railway Station** was awarded a 5-star 'Eat Right Station' by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- The 5-star rating indicates exemplary efforts by stations to ensure safe and hygienic food is available to passengers.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 2011

Science and Technology

ISRO and IISc researchers jointly develop a device for conducting biological experiments in space

- Researchers from the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** and the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** have developed a modular, self-contained device to cultivate equipment that could allow scientists to conduct biological experiments even in space.
- This device can be used to activate and track the growth of a bacterium called *Sporosarcina pasteurii* over several days, with minimal human involvement.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

- **Headquarters:** Bangalore
- **Chairperson:** K. Sivan

Defence News

28th edition of the SIMBEX exercise was conducted from 2 September to 4 September

- The **28th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)** was conducted from 2 to 4 September 2021 to strengthen the bilateral partnership held on the southern fringes of the South China sea.
- The Indian Navy was represented by Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay.

Indian and Australian Navy hold 'AUSINDEX' maritime warfare exercises

- Australia's Northern Territory hosts the biennial maritime warfare exercises '**AUSINDEX**' between the Royal Australian Navy and the Indian Navy.
- AUSINDEX 21 gives both navies a chance to improve their cooperative defence capabilities in support of a stable and secure Indo-Pacific.

The 5th edition of India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise 'KAZIND-21' commences

- The 5th edition of India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise **KAZIND-21** commenced at Training Node Aisha Bibi, Kazakhstan and will continue till 10 September.
- The military and diplomatic connections between the two countries will be strengthened as a result of this exercise.

Books & Authors

Angelina Jolie introduces her new e-book titled 'Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth'

- **Angelina Jolie** introduced her upcoming e-book, '**Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth**'.
- Her e-book shall be useful to everybody in making them conscious of their rights and get to know how one can declare them how one can declare them.

Sports News

Indian shuttlers Pramod Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar win gold medal and bronze medal in the men's singles (SL3) category at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020

- **Pramod Bhagat** claimed a historic gold medal in the men's singles (SL3) class, while **Manoj Sarkar** bagged the bronze medal at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- Pramod Bhagat beat Great Britain's Daniel Bethell in the summit clash, while Manoj Sarkar defeated Japan's Daisuke Fujihara in the third-place play-off.

Suhas Yathiraj clinches a silver medal in the men's singles (SL4) class at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020

- India's **Suhas Yathiraj** ended his campaign with a historic silver medal in the men's singles (SL4) class final at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- He is an IAS officer of the 2007 batch of Uttar Pradesh cadre. He is serving as the District Magistrate of Gautam Buddha Nagar.

Indian shooter Avani Lekhara was the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Paralympics 2020

- Indian shooter **Avani Lekhara** led India's contingent at the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 as the flag-bearer.
- A total of 54 para-athletes from India across nine sports disciplines participated in the event.

Max Verstappen wins F1 Dutch Grand Prix 2021

- Red Bull Racing's **Max Verstappen** won the F1 Dutch Grand Prix 2021 against Mercedes drivers Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas.

Jasprit Bumrah is nominated for the ICC Men's Player of the Month (August 2021)

- Indian pacer **Jasprit Bumrah** is nominated for the ICC Men's Player of the Month (August 2021).
- The Other nominees in the men's category included England Test skipper Joe Root and Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi.
- The nominees among the women were Thailand's Nattaya Boochatham and the Ireland duo of Gaby Lewis and Eimear Richardson.

The 130th edition of the Durand Cup began in Kolkata

- The 130th edition of the Durand Cup started at the Vivekananda Yubabharati Krirangan in **Kolkata**.
- Mohammedan Sporting Club started their campaign in the tournament with an emphatic win against the Indian Air Force Football team.
- The black panthers were leading at halftime and finally won the match in a Group A clash.

Indian archer Harvinder Singh wins the bronze medal in the men's Individual Recurve event at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020

- Indian archer **Harvinder Singh** won the bronze medal in the men's Individual Recurve event at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020. This is the first-ever archery medal for India at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.

Indian shooters Manish Narwal and Singhraj Adhana bag gold and silver medals at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020

- Indian shooter **Manish Narwal** won India's third gold medal, while **Singhraj Adhana** bagged a silver medal in the P4 mixed 50m Pistol (SH1) event at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- Singhraj Adhana grabbed his second medal of the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.

Praveen Kumar clinches the silver medal in the men's (T64) high jump in the Tokyo Paralympics 2020

- India's **Praveen Kumar** clinched the silver medal in the men's high jump (T64) event of the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
- Eight of India's 11 medals in the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 have come from athletics, including one gold medal in men's javelin throw through Sumit Antil in the F64 event.
- So far, India has won five silver medals in the athletics arena along with a bronze at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.

Avani Lekhara wins the bronze medal in the R8 women's 50 m rifle 3P(SH1) event in the Tokyo Paralympics 2020

- **Avani Lekhara** of India won the bronze medal in the women's 50 m rifle 3 Position SH1 event at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.

- She became the first Indian woman to win two individual medals at the Paralympics/Olympics with gold medal in the 10 m air rifle and bronze medal in the women's 50 m Rifle 3 Position (SH1) at the Paralympics/ Olympics.

Important Days

International Literacy Day – 8 September

- **International Literacy Day (ILD)** is celebrated on 8 September 2021 under the theme of “**Literacy for a human-centered recovery: Narrowing the digital divide**”.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) declared 8 September as International Literacy Day in 1966.

World Physical Therapy Day – 8 September

- **World Physical Therapy Day** is observed on **8 September** every year to honour and emphasise the hard work of the physiotherapists and their vital role in restoring the health of patients through various physiotherapies tailor-made to suit individual patient's requirements.

Food Processing Week – 6 September to 12 September

- The Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries is observing ‘**Food Processing Week**’ from **6–12 September 2021** as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (75 years of India's independence).

Teachers' Day (India) – 5 September

- India celebrates **Teachers' Day** on **5 September** every year to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.
- He was the first Vice-President and second President of independent India (from 1962–67).

International Day of Charity – 5 September

- **International Day of Charity** is observed annually on **5 September** with the objective of sensitising and mobilising people, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and stakeholders all around the world to help others through volunteer and philanthropic activities.

World Coconut Day – 2 September

- **World Coconut day** is observed on **2 September** every year to increase public awareness about the health and commercial benefits of coconut.

Obituary

Former Bihar Assembly Speaker Sadanand Singh passed away

- Former Assembly Speaker of Bihar and veteran political leader **Sadanand Singh** passed away at the age of 76.

Former French footballer Jean Pierre Adams passed away at 73

- The former French footballer defender **Jean-Pierre Adams** has died at the age of 73, almost 40 years after falling into a coma as a result of a medical error.

Former Rajya Sabha MP Chandan Mitra passed away

- Former Rajya Sabha MP and senior journalist **Chandan Mitra** passed away at the age of 66.
- He was a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha from 2003 to 2009. In June 2010, he was elected to the upper house from Madhya Pradesh and his term ended in 2016.

Actor Sidharth Shukla passed away at 40

- Popular television and film actor and Bigg Boss 13 winner **Sidharth Shukla** passed away due to cardiac arrest at the age of 40 in Mumbai.

Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani passed away at 91

- Kashmiri leader **Syed Ali Shah Geelani** passed away at the age of 91 due to prolonged illness.

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