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MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

AUG-2021 COVERAGE



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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Science & Technology released 'Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines' developed by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology.
 - These Guidelines will be implemented through **Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC)** at Regional Centre for Biotechnology supported by DBT.
 - The Minister also launched the website of IBDC.
 - Biotech-PRIDE is the **1st of its kind** by the DBT.
2. Japan International Cooperation Agency (**JICA**) has signed a Record of Discussions with the Indian government to strengthen its technical cooperation project with the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (**IITH**) – **Phase 2 of FRIENDSHIP** (Future Researchers at IITH to Enhance Network Development with Scholarship).
 - Under Phase 2 of FRIENDSHIP, JICA experts will be dispatched to IITH for launching the **Japan Desk at IITH**, conducting student exchange programmes, and providing JICA research funds to enhance research and technology development and industrial collaboration between India and Japan.
3. **Intel** collaborated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (**CBSE**) and launched the initiative '**AI For All**' under its 'AI For Citizens' programme to create a basic understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) for Indian people. It plans to introduce AI to 1 million people in its 1st year of launch.
 - The **4-hour** self-paced learning programme 'AI For All' will explain AI in an easier way, it is available in **11 vernacular languages** and it is divided into two sections such as AI Awareness (1.5 hours) and AI Appreciation (2.5 hours).

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4. The 112th Annual Day celebrations of National Centre for Disease Control (**NCDC**) were held in New Delhi. Its function was presided over by Union Minister Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
5. DefExpo-2022 (12th Edition), the land and naval systems show of the Ministry of Defence has been scheduled to be held at **Gandhinagar, Gujarat** from March 11-13, 2022. It is a **biennial event** and is organised by the Ministry of Defence.
6. Nano Biotechnology Research Centre (**NBRC**), the research and development unit of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (**IFFCO**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) – **Delhi** for "research consultancy, knowledge transfer and collaborative projects".

7. The Border Roads Organisation (**BRO**) constructed the world's highest **52-km-long** tarmac road or motorable pass at Umling LA Pass in eastern **Ladakh** at an altitude of 19,300 feet which has surpassed the record of a road in Bolivia, South America at 18,953 ft which connects to its volcano **Uturuncu**.
- This road will enhance socio-economic conditions and promote tourism in Ladakh.
8. National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has signed MoU with Punjab National Bank to extend financial assistance to the fisheries sector through the bank's 10,641 branches, 13,781 delivery channels and 12,518 Business Correspondents.
- The PNB's **Hyderabad Zonal Office** will be the nodal office for all the technically approved proposals received by NFDB across the country.
9. Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (**MGNCRE**) under the Ministry of Education has recognised the Chitkara University in Patiala as the '**District Green Champion**' for the academic year **2020-2021**.
- **Dr Madhu Chitkara**, Pro-Chancellor of Chitkara University received the award in the presence of Kumar Amit, Deputy Commissioner, Patiala.
10. **MeitY Startup Hub** (MSH), the nodal entity under the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY), collaborated with **India Accelerator**, the start-up accelerator, to support deep-tech startups.
- Through the partnership, MSH will work with India Accelerator's flagship program SOMA.
 - MSH plans to build a start-up ecosystem to support deep-tech startups to transform their ideas into scalable solutions by providing best practices, fundraising, knowledge sharing, etc.
11. Government of India (GoI) is set to host the **1st India Internet Governance Forum 2021 (IIGF 2021)** in India from October 20-22, 2021.
- IIGF 2021 will be conducted by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (**MeitY**).
 - The theme of the IIGF-2021 will be '**Inclusive Internet for Digital India**'.
 - IIGF is the **Indian chapter** of the **United Nations based Internet Governance Forum**. It will act as a platform to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.
 - Over 10,000 participants are expected to participate in the event, more than 25 workshops across the digital economy, digital governance, Trust, Security
12. One of the **world's Highest Mobile Air Traffic Control (ATC) towers** has been built by the Indian Air Force (IAF) in the Nyoma area of Ladakh at the Advanced Landing Ground.
13. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**) has declared **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**, the **cleanest city of India**, as the **1st 'water plus' city** of India.
- Indore received the 1st Swachh Certification of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Water Plus from the MoHUA under the Swachh Survekshan 2021(SS2021).

- It is a certificate provided by the **MoHUA** to a city for maintaining cleanliness in rivers and drains of its administration.
- A city/ward/circle/zone could be declared as Water Plus **only if** all wastewater released from households, etc. is treated before releasing it to the environment.
- The certification of SBM Water Plus is valid for 6 months and the certification process needs to be carried out every 6 months.

14. The Handbook named '**Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Implementation**' was released by NITI Aayog. The objective of the book is to provide guidance to the state governments and local bodies **about policy making and setting up of** norms related to **charging networks for Electric Vehicle (EV)**.
- It has been developed by NITI Aayog in association with the Ministry of Power (MoP), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and World Resources Institute(WRI) India.



15. The **total installed renewable energy capacity in India**, excluding large Hydro, has crossed the milestone of **100 GigaWatts (GW)**.
- With this, India holds 4th position in the world in terms of installed Renewable Energy (RE) capacity, 5th in solar and 4th in wind in terms of installed capacity.
 - **Target** – 100 GW achievement is considered to be part of India's target of 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, increasing 25 GW every year and it will reach 146 GW installed RE capacity if we include large hydro projects.
16. International Air Transport Association (**IATA**) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**) have extended their partnership to facilitate international trade, particularly **e-commerce in developing countries** through improved exchanges of trade data.
- As part of the partnership, the Air Cargo messaging standards (**Cargo-XML**) will be integrated with **ASYCUDAWorld** (Automated System for Customs Data), UNCTAD's automated customs management system.
 - It will allow efficient processing of air cargo shipments for more than 100 countries.
 - The next step of the collaboration will focus on enabling ASYCUDAWorld, to manage eCommerce shipments efficiently.

17. In August 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced the addition of 4 more wetlands from India, 2 each from **Gujarat and Haryana** in ‘The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance’/ **Ramsar Convention**.

Ramsar sites that are included:

- **Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat**
- **Wadhvana Wetland, Gujarat**
- **Sultanpur National Park, Gurgaon, Haryana**
- **Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, Jhajjar, Haryana**

18. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) conducted a nationwide assessment of **minority schools** and released a report titled ‘Impact of Exemption under Article 15 (5) with regards to Article 21A of the Constitution of India on Education of Minority Communities’.

19. **Dr Jitendra Singh**, Minister of State (MoS-Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences released ‘IndiGau’, India’s first and world’s largest Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.

- The chip was developed by the scientists of **National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB)**, Hyderabad (Telangana). It is an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST).

20. Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) inaugurated the world’s second-largest refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank (NGB) at the **National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR)**, Pusa, New Delhi.

- This will cater the need of **biofortified crop varieties**. Biofortification is the process by which the nutritional quality of food crops is improved.

21. **Kaziranga National Park** of Assam became India’s **first** National park to be equipped with **satellite phones**, an initiative to boost anti-poaching measures in the park. Jishnu Barua, Chief Secretary of Assam presented 10 satellite phones to forest personnel at the National Park.

22. The **2nd phase of SAMVAD** was launched by the Union Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD) Smriti Zubin Irani in Bengaluru, Karnataka on the successful completion of one year of SAMVAD programme.

- SAMVAD stands for **Support, Advocacy & Mental Health intervention for children in Vulnerable circumstances and Distress**.
- It aims to ensure holistic development and psychosocial well being of children and adolescents.

23. As a part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the 75th year of Independence of India, **MyGov** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) along with the United Nations (UN) **Women** launched the “**Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Innovation Challenge 2021**”.
- The 3rd series of Student Entrepreneurship Program (**SEP 3.0**) was launched by **Atal Innovation Mission** facilitated by Niti Aayog in collaboration with La fondation Dassault Systemes for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Lab(**ATL**)
24. As a part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the 75th year of Independence of India, **MyGov** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) along with the United Nations (UN) **Women** launched the “**Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Innovation Challenge 2021**”.
- Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Innovation Challenge 2021 is a platform for women.
 - The challenge is implemented under the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (COVID-19) Programme.
 - Nari Sashaktikaran – to empower women to help them reach their full potential.
25. Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defense (**MoD**) has launched **Defense India Startup Challenge (DISC) 5.0 (5th version)** under Innovations for Defense Excellence-Defense Innovation Organisation (**iDEX-DIO**) through video conference.
- The Challenge has been launched by Ministry of Defence in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
26. **Delhi-Chandigarh Highway Becomes India’s 1st EV-Friendly Highway**
- Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey, Union Minister of Heavy Industries inaugurated the state of the art electric vehicle (**EV**) **charging station** in (Karnal Lake Resort) Karnal, Haryana, installed by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (**BHEL**).
27. Intel India collaborated with **Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE)**-Indian Institute(IIT) of Bombay has launched first-of-its-kind industry-technology alliance “**Plugin Alliance**”, for **enhancing Industry 4.0** revolution in India.
28. India’s first **smog tower** launched in Delhi as a pilot project by the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at Baba Kharak Marg, Connaught Place.
- It was developed by IIT-Delhi and IIT- Bombay.
29. India is all set to host the 2nd **United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC)** in October 2022 in **Hyderabad**, Telangana on the theme ‘Towards Geo-enabling the Global Village’.
- It will be organized as a part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (Celebration of 75 Years of Indian Independence)’.
30. As a part of the Nationally Determined Contributions-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project, **NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI)**, India has jointly launched the ‘**Forum for Decarbonizing Transport**’ in India.

- The forum will act as a channel to bring in the diverse needs to adopt an integrated approach for greening the transport sector in India.
- Amitabh Kant, CEO of NITI Aayog inaugurated the forum over the virtual event.



31. **Microsoft** India has entered into a partnership with **Invest India** to support the tech startups in India. Under this partnership, Microsoft will work with Invest India and Accelerating Growth of New India's Innovations (AGNi) Mission to support the 'Microsoft for Startups' programme.
- This collaboration combines the reach of AGNi Mission with the tech and business resources of Microsoft for Startups to boost the startup ecosystem in India.
32. Government of India (GoI) has launched the **Startup Accelerator of Meity** for Product Innovation, Development & Growth (SAMRIDH) programme to support 300 Information Technology (IT) enabled Startups for a period of 6 months.
- It aims to create 100 unicorns out of the selected IT Startups by providing Seed funding, Mentorship and Market access.
 - Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity) will provide seed funds of upto INR 40 lakh & mentorship for 6 months for the selected startups.
 - The programme has been modelled on the basis of **Ycombinator**, one of the successful startup accelerator programmes started in the United States.
33. Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education has virtually inaugurated the **Centre for Research and Innovation in Artificial Intelligence (AI)** established at the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (**IIT-H**) in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Honeywell Technology Solutions.
- He also inaugurated the 1st Academic building of the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgical Engineering, High-Performance Computing Centre and High-Resolution Electron Microscopy Facility
34. The government of India announced the Amrit Mahotsav App Innovation Challenge 2021 for Indian entrepreneurs and start-ups.
- Minister of state for Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched the challenge in New Delhi.
 - It's a continuation of last year's Aatmanirbhar App Innovation Challenge.
 - Objective – To boost the development of Indian apps and enhance the promotion of existing apps

35. **MeitY Startup Hub** (MSH), under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Paytm**, a digital payment and financial technology, to support deep tech startups.
- The collaboration also focuses on fostering partnership with incubators, accelerators and investors.
36. On August 26, 2021, **NITI** (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog launched the next phase of its flagship platform Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) titled '**WEP Nxt**' in partnership with Cisco.
- Under this, Cisco's technology and experience of working with India's startups will be utilized to foster women entrepreneurship in India.



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STATES AFFAIRS

37. **Karnataka** has become the first state in the country to provide **1% horizontal reservation** for the **transgender** in each category of general, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) for all government services.
38. **Meghalaya** State Investment Promotion (**MSIP**) Society has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Invest India**, an investment promotion agency under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to promote the trade and industries of Meghalaya.
39. **Krishikarna** project, a joint initiative of State Agri Horticultural Society (**SAHS**), **Sustainable Foundation**, and **Qore3 Innovations**, was launched in Thiruvananthapuram, **Kerala** to promote hi-tech farming.
- Under the project, a mini polyhouse (a type of greenhouse) will be set up on 2.5 cents of land at a cost of Rs 2.35 lakh.
40. Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) has sanctioned loans worth **USD 112 million** to finance Urban Water Supply Infrastructure Projects in 4 towns (Ranchi, Hussainabad, Jhumri Telaiya and Medininagar) of Jharkhand. This is the **ADB's 1st urban sector project in Jharkhand**.
41. The **government of Assam**, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) and the Assam Infrastructure Financing Authority (**AIFA**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to assist the execution of various development projects in Assam.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister of Assam and Ajanta Neog, Finance Minister of Assam.

- The MoU will facilitate Rs 13,200 crore investment for infrastructure development across various sectors including the education sector.
42. Lieutenant Governor of **Ladakh RK Mathur** launched a month-long campaign named ‘**Pani Maah** (water month)’ to accelerate the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (**JJM**) and to inform and engage village communities on the importance of clean water in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.
43. In India’s 1st, **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin** launched ‘**Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam**’ scheme (Healthcare services at people’s doorstep Healthcare) at Krishnagiri to deliver medical services at people’s doorstep.
- **Objective** – To eliminate the need for patients to visit hospitals for treating non-communicable diseases.
44. Chief Minister of Gujarat launched ‘**eNagar**’ **mobile application and portal** which covers 10 modules offering 52 services.
- The eNagar project aims to have efficient, transparent and scalable online citizen-centric services and a back-office operation support system.
 - The Urban Development and Urban Housing Department has appointed **Gujarat Development Mission** as the **nodal agency** of the eNagar Project.
45. On August 8, 2021, the Karnataka government issued an order for the implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP) – 2020** from the current academic year 2021-2022.
- Through this, **Karnataka has become the 1st state in India** to issue an order on the implementation of NEP-2020.
46. **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami appointed Indian Women’s Team Hockey Player **Vandana Kataria** as the Brand Ambassador of the State’s Department of Women Empowerment & Child Development.
47. **Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC)**, a non-banking financial company owned by the Government of Kerala has announced a comprehensive funding scheme named “**KFC Startup Kerala**” to support the startups in all the stages of the development. This is the first-of-its-kind scheme where all stages of startups are considered.
48. On the occasion of International Day of **World’s Indigenous People Day** i.e. August 9, 2021, the Chief Minister (CM) of **Chhattisgarh** Bhupesh Baghel recognized **Community Forest Resource Rights** in an urban area, making it the first state in India to do so.
49. Uddhav Thackeray, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, launched the **e-crop survey** initiative across the state, with effect from 15th August 2021.
- This will be jointly implemented by the department of revenue and agriculture and Tata Trusts.
 - The project was introduced as a pilot in 2 districts of Maharashtra.
50. On the lines of Digital India, Odisha is all set to launch India’s first ‘Smart Health Cards scheme’ covering its 3.5 crore people of 96 lakh families under the **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana**. The information for the same

was provided by Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Naveen Patnaik while addressing the 75th Independence Day celebrations in Bhubaneswar.

51. The government of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) has introduced the **Karkhandar scheme** to support the local artisans and weavers and to promote the traditional handicrafts of J&K.
- The scheme also aims to provide training in the field of handicrafts sector.
 - The scheme will be implemented across the Union Territory (UT) through the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir/Jammu.
52. The government of Chhattisgarh launched the '**Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana**' to provide financial assistance of **Rs 6000** (annually) for more than **12 lakh Landless workers of Chhattisgarh**.
- This is a **first of its kind** scheme that focuses on delivering economic justice for the landless labourers.
53. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide **USD 500 million loans** to Government of India to expand the metro rail network in Bengaluru, Karnataka with the construction of two new metro lines totaling **56 kilometers Outer Ring Road- Kempegowda International Airport corridor with 30 stations**.
54. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has provided the first approval under SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF) to the **Tamil Nadu (TN)** state government.
- The in-principle approval letter was handed over by Sivasubramanian Ramann, Chairman and Managing Director, SIDBI at the assembly in the presence of TN chief minister Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin.

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55. The cabinet of Punjab, chaired by Chief Minister (CM) of Punjab, Amarinder Singh, has approved the new scheme titled "**Mera Kaam Mera Maan (MKMM)**" scheme to help the unemployed youths of Punjab to enhance their skills and increase the chance of getting a job.
56. Bollywood Actor, **Sonu Sonu** will be appointed as brand ambassador of the programme of Delhi Government "**Desh Ke Mentor**" by the Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal.
- It's a mentorship programme where around 3 lakh experts and professionals will guide the 10 lakh Delhi government school students.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

57. The 36th Edition of Coordinated Patrol (**CORPAT**) was held between the Navies of India and Indonesia from July 30-31, 2021 in the **Indian Ocean region (IOR)**.

- Indian Naval ship (INS) **Saryu**, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) along with Indonesian Naval ship KRI Bung Tomo took part in the coordinated patrol.
 - It aims to enhance the maritime cooperation between the two navies and forge strong bonds of friendship across the Indo Pacific region.
 - The patrol was held in “**A non-contact, at sea only**” format in view of the pandemic.
 - Under **SAGAR** (Security And Growth for All in the Region) mission, Indian Navy has been actively partnering with countries in the littoral states of Indian ocean to enhance maritime security in the region.
 - **SAGAR** was launched in **2015**, It is India’s strategic vision for IOR.
58. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited **Dushanbe, Capital of Tajikistan** from July 27-29, 2021 to participate in the **annual meeting of the Defence Ministers** of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.
59. The **1st G20 Culture Ministers’ Meeting 2021** was held in July 2021, virtually in **Rome, Italy**. It was hosted by Italy as it assumed the G20 2021 Presidency on 1 December 2020.
- From India, **Meenakshi Lekhi**, the Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture participated in the meeting.
60. **Germany** became the **5th country** to join the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** Framework Agreement after amendments to the ISA Agreement entered into force on **8th January 2021**.
- Germany’s Ambassador to India, Walter J. Lindner deposited signed copies of the ISA Framework Agreement with the Ministry of External Affairs, which is the depositary of ISA Framework Agreement.
61. **Bangladesh** and **Canada** joined the **Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**, an initiative of India launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019.
- India’s external affairs minister **S Jaishankar** has welcomed both nations as partners under CDRI.
62. In order to boost global liquidity and to curb COVID-19 impact, the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) equivalent to **US\$650 billion** w.e.f. August 23, 2021.
63. **South Africa** became the **1st Country in the World to grant Patent** to an Artificial Intelligence (AI) System. It has granted a patent related to an Food Container system based on Fractal Geometry invented by the AI system ‘**DABUS**’ (Device for Autonomous Bootstrapping of Unified Sentience).
64. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** virtually chaired the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) High-level Open Debate on ‘**Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation**’.
- As India holds the **presidency** of the UNSC for the month of **August 2021**, Narendra Modi presided over the maritime security debate.
 - Narendra Modi was the **1st** Indian PM to preside over a UNSC Open Debate.
 - **PM’s Remarks:** He outlined 5 principle frameworks to preserve and use the common maritime heritage, and to frame a global roadmap of maritime security cooperation.

- The 15-member body, UNSC unanimously **adopted** the **Presidential Statement** (PRST) on Maritime Security, which was given by Narendra Modi.
 - This is the **1st** comprehensive UNSC document on maritime security.
65. India virtually chaired the meeting of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Working Group on Agriculture 2021 on the theme '**BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security**'. India was represented by India's **Sanjay Agarwal**, Secretary, India's Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW).
- During the meeting, BRICS nations agreed to strengthen agro-biodiversity to ensure food and nutrition security.
 - Discussions were held on the Joint declaration of the **11th meeting of BRICS** and **Action Plan for 2021-24** for agricultural cooperation of BRICS countries and BRICS Agriculture Research Platform.
 - This BRICS Working Group meeting will endorse the Action Plan of 2021-24 for adoption in the BRICS 2021 meeting.
 - It should be noted that the BRICS Agriculture Research Platform has been developed by India to promote cooperation in the areas of agricultural research, extension, technology transfer, training and capacity building.
 - As per the UN (United Nations) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development noted that BRICS countries are well positioned to lead the target of achieving 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to eradicate hunger and poverty i.e. **SDG 1: No Poverty & SDG 2: Zero**
66. '**Exercise Konkan- 2021**', a bilateral Naval Exercise held **between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain** in Portsmouth, United Kingdom (UK).



67. The 12th Edition of **Exercise INDRA-2021**, a bilateral **Military Exercise** held between Indian Army and the military forces of Russian Federation in **Volgograd, Russia** (from 1st to 13th August,2021).
68. Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the 6th meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The meeting was held virtually from **Dushanbe, Capital of Tajikistan**. It was held under the **Chairmanship of Tajikistan (2021 SCO Presidency)**.
69. The World Health Organisation (**WHO**) created a new advisory group "The International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens" or '**SAGO**' to study into the origin of the COVID-19.

- The advisory group will develop a global framework to study the emergence of future pathogens with pandemic potential.
 - For SARS-CoV-2, SAGO will support the undertaking of recommended studies outlined in the March 2021 report.
70. On August 18, 2021 **India and Vietnam** had conducted a **Bilateral maritime exercise** in the **South China Sea** as a part of maritime cooperation between the two countries.
71. The **BRICS** nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) have signed an agreement for the cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing.
- The agreement was signed under India's BRICS chairship.
 - The agreement was signed by the Heads of BRICS Space Agencies.
72. On August 25, 2021 **India's National Security Advisor** (NSA) Ajit Doval hosted the 1st meeting of IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) NSAs. The three countries made agreements to enhance cooperation in cyber security and balance China's expansionist policies in the maritime region .
73. Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar has chaired **11th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa) Agriculture Ministers** meeting 2021 virtually.
- The theme of the meeting was "BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security". The major outcomes of the meeting are
 - BRICS Agriculture Research Platform (BARP)
 - i. BARP created to enhance agricultural cooperation among BRICS countries
 - ii. It will promote cooperation in the areas of agricultural research, extension, technology transfer, training & capacity building.

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REPORTS & INDICES

74. As per the report of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) lender **SIDBI** (Small Industries Development Bank of India) and **Transunion-Cibil, MSME Pulse – Edition XII**, the value of new loans disbursed to the MSME sector in **FY21** (COVID-19 period) was Rs.9.5 lakh crore, 40% higher than Rs.6.8 lakh crore in FY20 (pre-COVID-19 period).

75. **NITI Aayog's** (National Institute for Transforming India) Vice chairman Dr. Rajiv Kumar released a Report on the Power Distribution Sector titled 'Turning around the Power Distribution Sector- Learnings and Best Practices from Reforms'.
- The report is co-authored by NITI Aayog, RMI (Rocky Mountain Institute), and RMI India.
 - The report provides ways to transform India's Power distribution sector.
 - **Key findings of the Report**
 - Distribution Sector has been one of the major weak points of India's Power sector.
 - Most of the power Distribution Companies (**DISCOMS**) incur losses every year, the total losses were estimated to be around **INR90,000 crore in FY 21**.
 - The COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown have further dented the finances of the Discoms.
76. The 2nd Edition of the '**COVID-19 Innovation report 2021**' released by Startup Blink in association with Health Innovation Exchange & UNAIDS (United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) has ranked India 32nd (score 0.396) in the global coronavirus innovation rankings for countries. The US has topped the rankings, followed by Israel & Canada.
- The report ranks the 40 countries and 100 cities in the world based on Innovation solutions developed to combat the pandemic.
 - In the Cities Rankings, San Francisco Bay (US), New York (US) & Moscow (Russia) were ranked as the Top 3 cities. India has 2 cities – Bengaluru, Karnataka (49th Rank), New Delhi (55th) in the top 100 rankings.
77. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) **Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis** by the Working Group I was released. It addresses the most up-to-date physical understanding of the climate system, climate science, etc.
- United Nations(UN) secretary-general Antonio Guterres called the report 'a code red for humanity'.
 - The report states that if the emissions decline slowly, the temperature rise of 2°C, the limit set by the Paris Agreement will be breached by 2060.
 - The report gave 5 scenarios for the future based on carbon emissions, as per it, the world will cross the 1.5° C warming mark in the 2030s, earlier than past predictions.
 - Under the very high emission scenario with little action, temperatures are likely to rise by up to 5.7°C by the year 2100.
78. The Commonwealth Secretariat released its triennial rankings of **Global Youth Development Index (YDI) 2020**, it measures the progress in 181 countries across 6 factors of youth development. In the country wise ranking, India ranked 122nd out of 181 countries. **Singapore topped the Index for the 1st time**.
- The Commonwealth Secretariat released its triennial rankings of Global Youth Development Index (YDI) 2020, it measures the progress in 181 countries across 6 factors of youth development. In the

country wise ranking, India ranked 122nd out of 181 countries. Singapore topped the Index for the 1st time.

- The rankings are based on 27 indicators across the 6 domains (over the period 2010-18) – Health and Wellbeing, Education, Employment & Opportunity, Political & Civic participation, Peace & Security and Equality & Inclusion.
- The 2020 YDI highlights that the global average youth Development Score improved by 3.1% between 2010 and 2018 period with 156 out of 181 countries recording improvements in their scores.

79. According to the 2nd Edition of Global Crypto Adoption Index 2021 released by **Chainalysis**, a crypto-analysis firm, **India with a score of 0.37 ranked 2nd** out of 154 countries. Vietnam topped the index.

- It aims to provide an objective measure of which countries have the highest level of Cryptocurrency adoption.
- The index ranks countries based on **3 indicators** such as On-chain value received, On-chain retail value received and Peer-to-Peer (**P2P**) exchange trade volume
- India improved to **2nd rank from 11th** in the 2020 Global Crypto Adoption Index.

80. According to the UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) report titled ‘The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the **Children’s Climate Risk Index**’ (CCRI), India is among the **33 extremely high-risk countries** where approximately 1 billion children are most at risk of the impacts of climate change that will affect their health, education, and protection.

- The four South Asian countries named in the list are Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India with ranks of 14th, 15th, 25th and 26th respectively.

81. According to the recent technical report by the **National Centre for Coastal Research** (NCCR) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, 32% of India’s coastline underwent sea erosion and 27% of it expanded in a time span of 28 years i.e. between 1990 and 2018.

- India’s coastline is 6,631.53 kilometres long in which 2,135.65 kilometres faced erosion and 1,760.06 km expanded during this period. About 2,700 km of the coastline is stable.
- This information was provided by Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal, Husbandry and Dairying in response to a question in the Lok Sabha.

82. Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) has released the 52nd Edition of the **Key Indicators for Asia & the Pacific, 2021**.

- It contains Statistical information about 49 member countries of the Asia & the Pacific region on Population, labor force, National accounts, Production & Price indexes, Energy, Money & interest rates, Government finance, External trade, Balance of payments (BoP), International reserves, Exchange rates, and External indebtedness.

Major highlights of the report

- In the Asia-Pacific region, the Extremely poor population has reduced from the size of 1.2 Billion in 1999 to 202.9 Million in 2017.
 - Asia-Pacific Region's Economy grew from 27% of Global GDP in 2000 to 35% in 2019 (Exceeding the share of Europe & North America).
 - In 2020, three in every four reporting economies posted declines in GDP due to the impact of pandemic
 - The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed around 75 to 80 mn population in the Asia-Pacific region into Extreme poverty from 2019 levels.
83. The 1st Edition of North Eastern Region (NER) District Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index & Dashboard 2021-22 was released. The district of East Sikkim topped the rankings.
- It was prepared by Niti Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) & Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/DoNER) with the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
 - Objective: It aims to rank the 103 districts of 8 NER states based on their relative performance across 15 SDGs (Goal 14-Life below Water & 17-partnerships to achieve the goals are not taken)
 - The score ranges from 0 (bottom) to 100 (top). Each district is categorized into one of the four categories of Aspirant (score of 0-49), Performer (50-64), Front Runner (65-99) and Achiever (100).

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

84. In order to provide weather forecasts for farmers, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is all set to install Agro-Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) at **200 District Agromet Units (DAMUs)** located in Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) network.
- These AWSs will be used for augmenting block level Agromet Advisory Services (AAS) under **Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS)** scheme.
85. The Government of India (GoI) has signed a **US \$250 million loan** agreement with the **World Bank (WB)** for the Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (**DRIP-2) Phase II**, the world's largest dam management program. The agreement is the 1st phase of 'DRIP Phase II and Phase III'.
- The loan will be provided from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (**IBRD**), the lending arm of WB Group and it has a maturity of 13 years with a grace period of 6 years.

- DRIP Phase II will provide financial support to the GoI's long-term **National Dam Safety Program** and improve the safety and performance of existing dams across various states of India.
 - The agreement was between the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Central Water Commission (CWC), representatives of **10 participating states** (Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu) and the WB.
86. **Virendra Kumar**, the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a 'PM-DAKSH' Portal and 'PM-DAKSH' Mobile App under the scheme **PM-DAKSH** (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) **Yojana** to ease the access of **skill development** schemes by the **target groups**.
- The portal and app were developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (**MoSJ&E**), in collaboration with National e-Governance Division (**NeGD**).
 - **PM-DAKSH Yojana** is the National Action Plan launched by the **MoSJ&E** in **2020-21** for skilling the target group.
 - **'PM-DAKSH' Portal:** The portal will have all information related to skill development for the target groups and provide direct access for them to register under the portal with the training institute and program of their own interest.
87. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0** (PMUY 2.0) Scheme from Mahoba district of Uttar Pradesh.
- Under PMUY 2.0, an **additional 10 million LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) connections** will be provided to the beneficiaries. Lakhs of Migrant Families are also expected to benefit from the scheme.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**
 - PMUY is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG). It was launched on 1st May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
 - Objective – To make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households.
 - **Financial assistance of ₹1,600** per household given by the centre to eligible households.
88. On August 12, 2021, the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually participated in '**Atmanirbhar Narishakti se Samvad**' where he interacted with women Self Help Groups (SHG) members/community resource persons promoted under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NRLM**).
- **Release of funds:**
 - During the event, he released capitalization support funds of Rs. 1625 Crore to over 4 lakh SHGs as a major financial support to increase the scope of entrepreneurship among women on lines of AatmaNirbhar Bharat.
 - He also released **25 crore** as seed money for 7500 SHG members under the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme of Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoSPI).

PMFME provides financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

- Apart from above, **4.13 crore** funds were also released to 75 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) being promoted under DAY-NRLM.

89. On August 09, 2021, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi launched the National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (**NMEO-OP**) to reduce India's dependence on imported edible oils and achieve self-reliance in its production.

- The government plans to invest **Rs 11,000 crore** under NMEO-OP for a **5-year**. The mission was launched on the anniversary day of the Quit India Movement.
- PM virtually released the **9th installment** of financial benefit under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (**PM-KISAN**). This will enable the transfer of more than **Rs 19,500 crores** to more than 9.75 crores beneficiary farmer families.
- So far, **Rs 1 lakh 60 crores** has been given to farmers under PM-KISAN. Rs 1 lakh crore and 2 crore Kisan Credit Cards were transferred to small farmers during COVID-19 under PM-KISAN.
- In August 2021, the **Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB)** launched '**Equitech**', a fintech accelerator programme for the **start-up** entrepreneurs ecosystem.
- **Objective:** To provide the required legal and regulatory support for the start-ups through its experts and venture capitalists.

90. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (National Mission of Financial Inclusion) completed its 7th Anniversary on 15th August, 2021. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 28, 2014.

- As per government data, PMJDY now has **42.89 crore beneficiaries** (basic bank account holders) with **INR 1,43,834 crore total balance**.
- More than 50% of them are women – 23.76 crore, while 28.57 crore belong to rural and semi city areas.
- The average balance of PMJDY accounts stands at around INR 3000-3500.

91. Secretary of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Durga Shankar Mishra has launched a logo and brand named "**SonChiraiya**" to promote market products of Urban Self Help Groups (SHG).

- This would enhance women participation and make them financially empowered.
- **Mansukh Mandaviya**, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare virtually inaugurated the **Aarogya Dhara- 2.0** to increase the reach of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (**AB-PMJAY**) programme to the poorest households of India and to create awareness about the scheme.
- He chaired the event – Aarogya Dhara- 2.0, to mark the completion of **2 crore treatments** under AB-PMJAY.

- Treatments worth ~Rs 25000 crore have been provided to patients across 33 States/Union Territories (UTs), through the network of 23000 publics and private empanelled hospitals.
92. Union Education & Skill Development Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan & Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Virendra Kumar Jointly launched various initiatives under the New Education Policy (NEP)-2020. They are:
- The booklet on the 1-year NEP-2020 Achievement document.
 - Virtual School of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)
 - Release of 'Priya-The Accessibility Warrior'- Accessibility booklet developed by the NCERT & the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
 - National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) Bharat (Foundational Literacy & Numeracy) FLN tools & resources on DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing)
 - Alternate Academic Calendar of the National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT)
93. The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** has launched a 100 Days campaign – 'SUJALAM' as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to achieve Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus Status in villages across the country by undertaking waste water management at the village level.



ECONOMY & BUSINESS

94. **National Fertilisers Limited (NFL)** & Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd (RCF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) for '**Transfer of Technology**' of fertiliser **Nano Urea Liquid**.
95. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) has partnered with the Central Warehousing Corporation (**CWC**) through the NABFoundation, to offer storage facilities for the Farmers Producer Organisation (**FPOs**) at lower rates for the next 5 years.
96. **India Recorded Highest Ever Monthly Merchandise Export of \$35.17 billion in July 2021**
- **In July 2021**, India has recorded the highest ever monthly merchandise export. The merchandise exports in July 2021 was increased by **47.91 percent** to USD 35.17 billion from USD 23.78 billion in July 2020. India's exports have covered 32.64 percent of its annual target of 400 billion dollars.

- The top 5 commodity groups of export which have recorded positive growth during July this year are – Petroleum Products, Gems and Jewellery, Other Cereals, Man-made fabrics, and Cotton Fabrics, Handloom Products.
97. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in collaboration with **Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office**, United Kingdom (FCDO UK) has launched Swavalamban Challenge Fund (SCF) to promote entrepreneurship.
- The **National Stock Exchange** (NSE) partnered with **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India** (IBBI) to enhance research efforts in the area of insolvency and bankruptcy.
 - This decision has been taken because the efficient insolvency and bankruptcy resolution system enables timely resolution of financial stress, balances interests of all stakeholders, promotes entrepreneurship and increases availability of credit at optimal costs.
98. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched the programme ‘**Digital Prayaas**’ an **App based end to end digital lending tool** platform to sanction loans to entrepreneurs from low income group (especially the people at the bottom of the pyramid) by the end of the day.
- The process of – onboarding borrowers’ e-KYC (Know-Your-Customer) and sanctioning loan through credit score and analytics will get executed on an end-to-end basis digitally.
 - The post sanction documentation such as e-signing and e-stamping of the documents will also be done digitally through the App.
 - **SIDBI-BigBasket Initiative:** SIDBI also partnered with a major aggregator BigBasket to on board its delivery partners across the country and provide loans to the youths of the urban areas at an affordable interest rate for the purchase of environment friendly e-vehicles (e-Bikes and e-Vans).
99. **CoinDCX** has become the **first Indian cryptocurrency exchange to grab the title of ‘unicorn’ with valuation to \$1.1 billion** (Rs 8,150 crore).
- The exchange achieved this status after a \$90-million (Rs 668 crore) series-C funding round, led by Facebook co-founder Eduardo Saverin’s B Capital.
 - It should be noted that Unicorns are startups with a valuation of \$1 billion or more.
100. In August 2021, the Department of Public Enterprises (**DPE**), Ministry of Finance, released the **60th Public Enterprises (PE) Survey 2019-20** report. As per the report, the **net profit** of Central Public Sector Enterprises (**CPSEs**) in FY20 decreased by **20 percent** from Rs 1.74 lakh crore in FY19 to around Rs 1.38 lakh crore
101. The Ministry of Tourism has signed **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Indian travel agencies MakeMyTrip India Private Limited and Ibibo Group Private Limited to strengthen the Hospitality and Tourism Industry of India.

- To provide extensive visibility to accommodation units, which have self-certified themselves on **SAATHI** (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for the Hospitality Industry) on the **OTA** (OnlineTravel Agency) platform.
- The main aim is **to gain insights, designing evidence based & targeted policy measures** to promote safe, and sustainable tourism.

102. Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has launched **Ubharte Sitaare Fund** (USF) of Corpus INR 250 crore with a green shoe option of INR 250 crore for Export oriented Small & mid sized companies across the country.

- USF is jointly funded by Export and Import (EXIM) Bank of India & Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- It is an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with a contribution of INR 40 crore each by EXIM Bank & SIDBI has been registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in July 2021.

103. Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman launched the asset monetization pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities named **National Monetization pipeline (NMP)**.

- The NMP report was developed by NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) in consultation with infrastructure line ministries.
- Objective: To list out the government's (govt) infrastructure assets that are to be sold in the next 4 years.
- The aggregate monetization potential under NMP through core assets of the central govt over the 4-year period (i.e. from FY22 to FY25) is estimated at Rs 6 lakh crores.
- Monetization is the process of earning revenue from an asset business by converting the assets into cash or a form that is easily convertible into cash.

104. HCL Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of HCL Technologies, launched an online portal named 'My e-Haat' to empower artisans and strengthen the value chain of the handicraft sector in India.

- The portal will enable artisans to list their products to conduct their business. The portal also offers e-payment options, cash on delivery (COD), integrated logistic support, and real-time product tracking.
- Presently, more than 30 partners from 8 states with over 600 products were listed on the portal.

105. Union Minister for Labour & Employment, Bhupender Yadav has launched e-Shram Portal for registration of Unorganized workers across the country. The portal is the 1st of its Kind initiative for the Unorganized workers in India.

- The portal aims to register about 38 crore Unorganized workers such as Construction labourers, Migrant workforce, Street vendors, Domestic workers & others.

RBI
Assistant
Prelims

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FINANCE & BANKING

106. State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a ‘**SIM Binding**’ feature in its digital banking platform YONO (You Only Need One), YONO Lite.
- The technology allows Only one user per device with a Registered Mobile Number (RMN). It is aimed at protecting customers from various digital frauds.
 - The SIM Binding feature will work with the basic rule of One Mobile Device – One User – One RMN.
107. According to information provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the total amount of unclaimed deposits of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) was Rs. 24,356 crore, as on **July 31, 2020**.
- The 15th Finance Commission, in its latest report to the Centre, has recommended a performance-based challenge fund of Rs 8,000 crore to 8 states for incubation of new cities.
 - The amount available for each proposed new city is Rs 1,000 crore and a state can have only one new city under the proposed scheme.
108. **PhonePe** launched the UPI based **AutoPay** functionality for its Mutual Fund (MF) Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) offerings, became the **1st** digital investment platform in India to introduce such a feature.
109. On August 2, 2021, the **SBI (State Bank of India) General Insurance** collaborated with Manipal Business Solutions, the promoter of **SahiPay** to expand its non-life penetration in rural areas.
110. **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** reduced the minimum application value of real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) to the range of **Rs 10,000-15,000** from earlier requirement of Rs 50,000 for REITs and Rs 1 lakh for InvITs.
- It also revised the trading lot to **one unit** for REITs and InvITs from earlier 100 units for initial listing.
 - In this regard, allotment to any investor is required to be made in the multiples of a lot.
111. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has empanelled **IndusInd Bank**, the **private sector** lender, as an ‘**Agency Bank**’ to facilitate transactions related to government (govt) businesses.
- RBI has allowed IndusInd Bank to handle transactions related to revenue receipts under Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) on behalf of the state/central govt.
 - On behalf of state govts, it will collect state taxes such as professional tax, VAT (value-added tax), state excise duties, etc.

112. RBI imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 50.35 lakh** on **Janalaxmi Co-operative Bank**, Nashik, Maharashtra
113. **The Banker**, the Financial Times publication has honoured **DBS Bank**, a Singapore based financial service group, as the **Global** and **Asia-Pacific** winner for the Most Innovative in Digital Banking, at its **Innovation in Digital Banking Awards 2021**.
- The winners of the awards were announced by **Joy Macknight**, Editor of 'The Banker'.
 - The DBS has also won an award under the Cyber Security category for its Secure Access and Remote Working Solutions.
114. On August 3, 2021, **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** allowed payments banks to carry out the activities of investment bankers in order to ease the access for investors to participate in public and rights issues by using various payment avenues.
- Also, Non-scheduled payments banks, which have prior approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), will be eligible to act as **Bankers to an Issue (BTI)** with regard to the conditions stipulated in the BTI rules.
115. **ICICI Prudential Life** Insurance Company Ltd has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and integrated NPCI's **UPI (Unified Payment Interface) AutoPay** platform into its system to enable its customers to make instant automated **recurring premium payments** of insurance policies.
116. On August 02, 2021, Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** virtually launched a **prepaid electronic voucher**-based digital payment solution named '**e-RUPI**' to strengthen the Direct Benefit Transfer (**DBT**) and the financial inclusion of unbanked citizens.
- e-RUPI, the 'person and purpose-specific' one-time cashless and contactless digital payment vouchers was developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** on its **UPI (Unified Payments Interface)** platform, in association with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), National Health Authority (NHA), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), and partner banks.
 - The e-RUPI e-Voucher/coupon could be shared in the form of an **SMS-string** or **QR code** (instead of Money) to the beneficiaries' **mobile** for a specific purpose (health, education, subsidies, etc).
 - The beneficiaries could redeem the voucher at the **service provider** (i.e. the merchants that accept e-RUPI) and it doesn't need a **card**, digital payments app, **bank account**, internet banking access, and other traditional payment modes to complete the transaction.
117. Government of India (GoI) has set the Loan Disbursement Target under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (**PMMY**) at **INR 3 trillion** for the current Financial Year (**FY 2021-22**). It is less than the target set in the FY of 2020-21 – INR 3.21 Trillion.
- The target has been lowered due to the increased allocation under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (**ECLGS**) for small businesses.

- In FY22, as on June 25th, **loans worth INR 3,804 crore** have been sanctioned by 13 Public Sector Banks (PSBs).
- In the previous FY 2020-21, the total **loans disbursed under PMMY stood at INR 3.12 trillion**, out of the sanctioned amount of INR 3.21 trillion.

118. On August 04, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the timeline for **Banks** to implement the revised rules on **opening current accounts** to 3 months till **October 30, 2021**.

- In August 2020, RBI revised the directions on opening and operating current accounts by banks and **restricted** the banks from opening current accounts for customers who have availed credit facilities from the bank in the form of **cash credit (CC)/ overdraft (OD)**. Earlier the deadline was fixed by RBI till July 2021 to implement the regulations.

119. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 6-members Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had met on 4th, 5th and 6th **August 2021** and released its **third** bi-monthly **monetary policy** statement for **FY22** (April 2021 – March 2022).

Policy Rates:

- The Policy rates were kept unchanged, which are as follows:

Category	Rates
Policy Rates	
Policy Repo Rate	4.00%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%
Reserve Ratios	
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.00%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%

• Key Points

- **Growth:** The MPC has retained India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection for FY22 at 9.5 percent. Real GDP growth for Q1 FY23 is projected at 17.2 percent.
- **Inflation:** Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was projected at 5.7 percent in FY22. CPI inflation for Q1 FY23 was projected at 5.1 percent.
- The MPC meeting was headed by RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das**.
- RBI decided to conduct 2 auctions of Rs 25,000 crore each (overall **Rs 50,000 crore**) on August 12 and August 26, 2021, under **G-SAP 2.0** (G-sec Acquisition Programme).

- *RBI has extended the Targeted Long Term Repo Operations (TLTRO) on Tap Scheme by a period of three months, i.e., till December 31, 2021.*

120. **Six Banks** namely State Bank of India (SBI), Axis Bank, Indian Bank, Yes Bank, IDBI Bank, and ICICI Bank have brought **Equity Stakes in Financial Technology Platform IBBIC** (Indian Banks' Blockchain Infrastructure Co).

- The 6 Banks have picked up **5.55 percent stake each**, representing 50,000 shares in IBBIC, for cash at INR 5 lakh each.

121. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has empanelled the **Karnataka Bank** as the '**Agency Bank**' to facilitate transactions related to government (govt) businesses.

- RBI has allowed Karnataka Bank to handle transactions related to **revenue receipts** under the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) on behalf of the state/central govt.
- The bank was also authorised to make transactions such as income tax, indirect taxes, pension payments, collection of **stamp duty** charges, and State taxes such as professional tax, value-added tax and State excise duties.

122. In August 2021, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) amended the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (**LODR**)) **Regulations, 2015** named LODR (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2021.

- It modified certain norms related to the process of appointment/removal of **Independent directors** (IDs).
- **Objective:** To enable the transparent appointment/removal of IDs and overcome corporate fraud and promoters' mismanagement.
- Appointment/Re-appointment and Removal of IDs were now directed to be made only through a special resolution of shareholders.
- A cooling-off period of **1 year** has been introduced for an ID transitioning to a whole-time director (WTD) in the same company.
- On August 9, 2021, the collateral free loans to self-help groups (SHGs) provided under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission** (DAY-NRLM) have been enhanced to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Under this enhancement, for loans to SHGs up to Rs 10 lakh there will be no collateral and no margin will be charged, also, no lien should be marked against savings bank account of SHGs and no deposits should be insisted upon while sanctioning loans.
- For loans to SHGs above Rs 10 lakh and up to Rs 20 lakh, no collateral should be charged and no lien should be marked against savings bank account of SHGs.

123. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has joined hands with price housing financier IIFL (India Infoline) **Home Finance Ltd**, subsidiary of IIFL home finance to reduce carbon emissions and preserve water and vitality in India. IIFL is the technical assistance of the program.
- The total cost of the project is \$1 million & ADB will fund through its **Urban Climate Change Resilience (UCCR) Trust Fund**, IIFL, will contribute \$0.15 million towards inexpensive housing in India.
124. General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), the sole reinsurer in the domestic reinsurance market, is set to shut down its Dubai Office since the Dubai Authority failed to renew its licence.
- The GIC Re has decided to shift its operation to Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (**GIFT City**), the only International Financial Services Centre in India.
 - The GIC Re has decided to place its Dubai Branch into a runoff because of non-renewal of Licence, non-compliance insolvency requirement.
125. On August 17, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced the 'Financial Inclusion Index' (**FI-Index**) to measure the extent of financial inclusion across India.
- The FI-Index will be published annually in **July month** (for the financial year (FY) ending previous March).
 - The annual FI-Index for the **FY21** (period ending March 2021) is **53.9** as against 43.4 of FY17.
 - The FI-Index contain 3 different parameters with variant weightage viz, **Access** (35 percent), **Usage** (45 percent), and **Quality** (20 percent). The FI-Index has **no 'base year'**.
126. **SBI Life Insurance** launched a new Individual, Non-Linked, Non-Participating Life Insurance solution named '**SBI Life eShield Next**'.
- It will 'levels up'/improve the protection coverage of the insured person when he achieves life's major milestones like getting married, becoming a parent or buying a new house.
 - It has 3 different plan options such as Level Cover, Increasing Cover, and Level Cover with Future-Proofing Benefit.
 - It provides the option to pay the premium as per the customer's convenience (viz, single, monthly, half-yearly, and yearly).
127. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revised guidelines for both new and existing Safe Deposit Locker and Safe Custody Article Facility with the banks.
- At present, banks do not have any liability towards lockers. The guidelines would come into effect from **January 1, 2022**.
128. World Bank and partners announce a New Global Fund for Cybersecurity named **Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund** under the broader Digital Development Partnership (**DDP**) umbrella program.
- It aims to better define, understand, and systematically roll out the cybersecurity development agenda.

- The fund will support development of global knowledge on cybersecurity solutions for low and middle income countries.
129. NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has partnered with the UAE (United Arab Emirates)-based **Mashreq Bank** to provide the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the mobile-based real-time payment system, in the UAE.
130. **HDFC Bank** Ltd, India's largest private bank, and Paytm, made a partnership to share their network and provide digital lending and payment solutions for consumers and merchants across India.
- Objective: To create digital transformation in semi-urban and rural India, and involve more people in the formal banking system.
131. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a web-based and end-to-end workflow automation system named 'Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring' (PRISM) to strengthen the compliance of the entities that are supervised by RBI.
- Objective: To make continuous supervision of entities for – earlier identification of risks; conduct of supervisory actions; and strengthen their internal resilience.
 - RBI supervises entities including banks, NBFCs, financial institutions and Payment System Providers.
 - RBI has included **Root Cause Analysis (RCA)** in the current supervisory cycle. RCA includes a detailed assessment of governance, oversight and assurance function, business strategy and risk and compliance culture.
 - RBI's Department of Supervision (DoS) plans to introduce a dedicated market intelligence (MI) unit for frauds and implementation of automated unique system generated numbers for each fraud.
132. In August 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the recommendation report of the Expert Committee on Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs) under the chairmanship of N. S. Vishwanathan, which was constituted by RBI to review the issues of UCBs and to provide a road map for strengthening the sector.
- **Committee's Recommendation:**
 - To ease the regulatory process, the committee has recommended a 4-tier structure for the UCBs, based on their capital availability and other factors.
 - *Tier 1 – All unit UCBs and salary earner's UCBs (irrespective of deposit size), and all other UCBs having deposits up to Rs 100 crore*
 - *Tier 2 – UCBs with deposits between Rs 100 crore – Rs 1000 crore*
 - *Tier 3 – UCBs with deposits between Rs 1000 crore – Rs 10,000 crore*
 - *Tier 4 – UCBs with deposits more than Rs 10,000 crore*
133. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has empaneled **South Indian Bank**, the Kerala based private sector lender, as an 'Agency Bank' to facilitate transactions related to Central and State government on behalf of the RBI.

134. Nirmala Sitharaman, the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs unveiled the 4th edition of the Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda 'EASE 4.0' (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) for 2021-22 – tech-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking.

- The finance minister also unveiled the annual report for the PSB Reforms Agenda 'EASE 3.0' for 2020-21 and gave awards for best performing banks on the EASE 3.0 Banking Reforms Index.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

135. **Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla**, Founder and Chairman of the Serum Institute of India (SII), Pune has been selected for Lokmanya Tilak National Award, 2021.

- Poonawalla will be honoured for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic by manufacturing Covishield vaccine and thereby saving many lives.

136. The Highest sporting honour of India, “**Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**”, has been renamed as “**Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**” in honour of the hockey Wizard Dhyan Chand. Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that the renaming was based on the request from the citizens across India to name the Khel Ratna Award after Dhyan Chand

137. The Information Technology, Electronics and Communication(ITE&C) Department of the **Government of Telangana** has won the **AI GameChanger Award 2021** for the implementation of the ‘**Crowd Monitoring using AI**’ scheme.

- The winners of the awards were announced at the Xperience AI Summit 2021 organised by the National Association of Software and Services Companies(NASSCOM).
- The award is presented by the NASSCOM in collaboration with Microsoft (Innovation partner) and Deloitte (Knowledge partner).

138. **Nagaland** has won **7 Van Dhan Awards 2020-2021** for its outstanding performance in various categories. The state topped in 3 categories, Best Survey State, Best Training State and the most number of Van Dhan Vikas Clusters(VDVKCs).

- The awards were announced by Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, during the 34th Foundation day of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).

- The Van Dhan Awards was instituted by the TRIFED to recognise Van Dhan Self Help Groups (VDSHG), VDVKCs, tribal artisans, forest produce gatherers and people working for them, for their achievements and contributions.
 - The awards were given under various categories such as the implementation of MSP for Minor Forest Produce (MFP), Van Dhan Yojana, adoption of digital technology, innovation and creativity, sales generated, training and number of VDVK clusters established.
139. The West Bengal Government has been honoured with **4 SKOCH Awards** for various schemes under **Ease of Doing Business Initiatives**. The awards are given by Skoch Foundation to recognize top performing government organisations.
- Platinum Award – to ‘Silpasathi’ – the online single window portal
 - Gold Award – Scheme for Auto Renewal of Enlistment through online system for urban Areas
 - Silver Award – Scheme for Online issuance of Trade licences in rural areas and the E-Nathikaran : the online system for registration, preparation and submission of deeds.
140. **Mohammad Azam** from Karimnagar district in Telangana has been awarded the **National Youth Award** recently by the Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur** in Delhi for displaying exemplary leadership qualities.
- He has conducted several awareness programmes related to blood donation, organ donation and plantation programmes under the Haritha Haram project. The award carries an appreciation certificate and Rs 50,000 cash.
141. **Guinness World Records’** title is awarded for ‘**Most authors on a single peer-reviewed academic paper**’, a study about COVID-19 conducted at Indian hospitals among others around the world by the United Kingdom (UK) experts along with University of Birmingham and Edinburgh.
142. the Union Ministry of Education (MoE), Department of School Education and Literacy, published a list of **44 selected teachers** from India for the National Awards to Teachers, 2021, the highest teachers award in India.
- On September 5, 2021, the President of India Ram Nath Kovind will award the National Award to Teachers 2021, to those shortlisted 44 teachers. List of awardees
 - Hariswami Das, the headmaster of Sovanagar High School in Malda, West Bengal, was selected for the award from West Bengal for his digital educational model which was created in 2020 under COVID-19.
 - Eligibility: All regular teachers were eligible and no minimum years of service were required.

143. On August 1, 2021, the Government of India has appointed **Deepak Das**, the 1986-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer as the **25th** Controller General of Accounts (CGA) under the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure.
- He replaced **Soma Roy Burman**, (the 7th women CAS) who held the position from December 2019.
 - Prior to his appointment as CGA, he was the principal chief controller of accounts in the Central Board of Direct Taxes.
144. The government of India has appointed **Mini Ipe** as the new Managing Director of the Life Insurance Corporation(LIC) of India. She has been serving as the Executive Director, Legal Department, LIC of India.
145. The government of India has nominated **Rekha Sharma as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women(NCW)** for another term of **3 years** with effect from 7th August 2021 or till the age of 65 or until further orders.
146. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension of Tenure of Cabinet Secretary **Rajiv Guaba** by 1 year. He will continue till August 30,2022.
147. Reserve Bank of India(RBI) roped in Olympic gold medalist, Athlete (Javelin) **Neeraj Chopra** for its new public awareness campaign against **digital banking frauds**.
- As a part of the campaign, Neeraj Chopra urges people not to disclose details such as one-time password(OTP), Card Verification Value(CVV) number and ATM PIN in front of others.
148. The Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Shanti Lal Jain** as the Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of the Indian Bank for a period of 3 years from the date of assumption of office or 1st September 2021.
149. Bollywood actress **Alia Bhatt** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of **Samsung India** to endorse Galaxy Z, a series of foldable smartphones, in India. Samsung India is set to launch its Galaxy Z Fold3 5G and Galaxy Z Flip3 5G smartphones in India from 10th September 2021.
150. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of **Sandeep Bakhshi** as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **ICICI Bank** with effect from 15th October 2021 to 3rd October 2023.

OBITUARIES

151. **Padma Sachdev (81), the 1st Modern woman poet of Dogri language** and Padma Shri awardee passed away at Mumbai hospital due to health reasons. She had won the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1971 for her anthology of poems – ‘**Meri Kavita Mere Geet**’.

152. Centenarian sprinter and World Masters Games Medalist **Man Kaur**, who is referred as ‘**Miracle from Chandigarh**’, has passed away in Patiala, Punjab. She was born on 1st March 1916. Man Kaur hailing from Patiala, Punjab, started her athletics career at the age of 93.
153. India’s former football goalkeeper & 2 time Olympian Shankar Subramaniam Narayan (**86**) also known as S.S. ‘**Babu**’ Narayan passed away due to cardiac arrest in Thane, Maharashtra.
154. Former Indian International Footballer (defender) **Chinmoy Chatterjee** has passed away at his residence in Khardah, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. He hails from West Bengal.
155. The former Chief Minister (CM) of Uttar Pradesh (UP), **BJP leader Kalyan Singh** passed away at the age of 89 in Lucknow due to age related diseases. He was born in Atrauli, Uttar Pradesh.
156. Former Indian **Footballer Syed Shahid Hakim**, a part of the Indian Football team during the 1960 Rome Olympics, has passed away in Gulbarga, Karnataka. He was born in Hyderabad, British India. He was popularly known as ‘saab’.
157. **O. Chandrasekharan, an Olympian & excellent defender in the Indian Football team** passed away at the age of 86. He was born in Irinjalakuda town in Thrissur, Kerala & he died in Kochi, Kerala.
158. The renowned **Agricultural Scientist** and Padma Shri award recipient, **Bonbehari Vishnu Nimbkar** (B V Nimbkar) passed away at the age of 90 years in Satara district of Maharashtra due to age related diseases. He was born in 17 July 1931 in Goa.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

159. United Nations (UN)’s **World Breastfeeding Week (WBW)** is annually observed across the globe from **1st to 7th August** to encourage breastfeeding which contributes to the health of babies across the Globe. The annual observance of the WBW is organised by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (**WABA**).
- The WBW also commemorates the signing of the **Innocenti Declaration** in **August 1990** in Florence, Italy.
 - The theme of World Breastfeeding Week chosen by **WABA** is “**Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility**”.
160. **TRIFED’s 34th Foundation Day – 6th August 2021**

- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (**TRIFED**), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (**MoTA**), celebrated its **34th Foundation day** on **6th August 2021** to raise awareness about the issues related to the trade in tribal regions and the need to ensure a fair deal for them.
 - TRIFED was established on 6th August **1987** to enhance tribal development through marketing support for handicrafts and Non-Timber Forest Produce (**NTFP**).
- 161.** The **National Handloom Day (NHD)** is annually observed across India on **7th August** to create awareness about the handloom works in India and to recognise its contribution to the socio-economic development of India.
- The annual celebration of the national Handloom day is organised by the **Ministry of Textile**.
- 162.** The **Quit India Movement Day** is annually observed across India on **8th August** to commemorate the launch of the Quit India Movement on 8th August **1942**.
- The day remembers the sacrifices of the martyrs of the freedom struggle and pays homage to the freedom fighters.
 - The 8th August **2021** marks the **79th anniversary of the Quit India movement**. The day is also known as **August Kranti Diwas** or India August Movement since the movement was held in August.
 - **National Archives of India**, under the Ministry of Culture, is organizing an exhibition on the Quit India Movement as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav being celebrated to mark 75 years of Independence.
- 163.** United Nations (UN)'s **International Youth Day(IYD)** is annually observed across the globe on **12th August** to create awareness about the cultural and legal issues surrounding youth and to celebrate the potential of youths as the partners of the global society.
- IYD 2021 was virtually convened by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (**DESA**) in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations(**FAO**) and the Major Group for Children and Youth.
 - The theme of International Youth Day 2021 is **“Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health”**. The IYD 2021 theme highlights that the success of the global efforts will not be achieved without the participation of young people.
- 164.** The United Nations (UN)'s **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples** is annually observed across the globe on **9th August** to recognise the contributions and achievements of the indigenous people across the globe, who have a vast diversity of unique cultures, traditions, languages and knowledge systems.
- The day aims to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. The day is also known as **“World Tribal Day”**.
 - The theme of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2021 is **“Leaving No One Behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract”**.

165. **Nagasaki Day** is annually observed across the globe on **9th August** to create awareness about the hazards of nuclear power and to promote world peace. The day also remembers the atomic bomb victims of Nagasaki.
- The 9th August **2021** marks the **76th anniversary** of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, a city on the island of Kyushu in Japan.
166. **World Biofuel Day** is annually observed across the globe on **10th August** to create awareness about the importance and significance of non-fossil fuels as a substitute for conventional fossil fuels.
- Biofuels are renewable, biodegradable and sustainable sources of energy that can reduce the dependency on fossil fuels and promote clean energy.
167. The United Nations (UN)'s World Humanitarian Day (**WHD**) is annually observed across the globe on 19th August to honour and recognise the efforts of Humanitarians across the globe on protecting and supporting the people in need.
- WHD is a campaign by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (**OCHA**) and humanitarian partners.
168. **World Photography Day** is annually observed across the globe on **19th August** to celebrate the art, craft, science and history of photography.
- The day also inspires photographers across the globe to share one of their photographs to share their world with the world.
 - World Photography Day is also known as **World Photo Day**.
169. **World Mosquito Day** is observed annually across the globe on **20th August** to commemorate the discovery of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.
170. **World Water Week** (WWWeek) is annually celebrated across the globe in the month of August to address the major water issues across the globe.
- The WWWeek 2021 is being held as an online event from 23rd to 27th August.
 - WWWeek has been an annual event organised by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) since 1991.
 - The theme of 2021 World water Week is "**Building Resilience Faster**".
 - The WWWeek 2021 marks the observance of the 23rd World Water Week.
171. **National Sports Day** is annually observed across India on **29th August** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Olympian and Indian Hockey legend, Major Dhyan Chand, who is popularly known as the "Hockey Wizard" and "the Magician".
172. **National Small Industry Day** is annually observed across India on **30th August** to celebrate and recognise the contribution of small-scale industry to the development of India. The day aims to promote the value of small businesses in society and to encourage the small industries across India.

SPORTS

173. Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Poland) defeated Sergey Karjakin (Russia) to win the **9th Edition of FIDE (International Chess Federation) World Cup 2021**. FIDE World Cup 2021 was held at Sochi, Russia from July 12 – August 6th, 2021.

- Grand Master (GM) Magnus Carlsen (Norway) finished 3rd in the World Cup defeating GM Vladimir Fedoseev (Russia).

174. The 32nd Edition of Olympic Games took place in Tokyo, Japan from 23rd July, 2021 – 8th August, 2021. India finished with **7 Medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 4 Bronze)** and has been ranked at 48th Position. This was India's highest ever medals tally in an Olympics (Previous one was 6 medals 2016 Rio Olympics)

- The US topped the Medals tally with 113 Medals (39 G, 41 S, 33 B) followed by China & Japan.

Overall Medals Tally of India:

Name	Sport	Event	Medal
<i>Neeraj Chopra</i>	Athletics	Men's javelin throw	Gold
<i>Saikhom Mirabai Chanu</i>	Weightlifting	Women's 49 kg	Silver
<i>Ravi Kumar Dahiya</i>	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 57 kg	Silver
<i>P. V. Sindhu</i>	Badminton	Women's singles	Bronze
<i>Lovlina Borgohain</i>	Boxing		

175. The Tokyo 2020 Summer Paralympic Games will be held from 24th August – 5th September, 2021.

- The official Mascot is 'Someity'.
- For the 1st time, Badminton & Taekwondo will be Introduced by replacing Sailing and 7-a-side football.

176. Indian Table Tennis Player **Sathiyam Gnanasekaran** won the 2021 International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Czech International Open. The tournament was held from 21-25th August, 2021 in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

177. Red Bull driver **Max Verstappen (Netherland)** has been declared the winner of the **Belgian Grand Prix (GP), 2021**. It was the Shortest ever Grand Prix in terms of distance Completed.

