

CURRENT AFFAIRS JUNE 2021

CURRENT AFFAIRS MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Table of Contents

<u>Awards and Honours</u>	12
<u>Economic Development</u>	23
<u>Geography, Environment, Biodiversity & Disaster Management</u>	33
<u>History, Art & Culture</u>	46
<u>Important Days & Events</u>	48
<u>International Affairs</u>	56
<u>Polity & Governance</u>	75
<u>Science & Technology</u>	83
<u>Society and Social Justice</u>	95
<u>Sports</u>	107
<u>Security</u>	115
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	118-136

Category Wise CA

AWARDS AND HONOURS:

1. Blind Chinese man Zhang Hong climbs Mount Everest
2. Justice Arun Mishra takes over as NHRC Chairman
3. Dinesh K Tripathi assumes charge as Chief of Personnel of Indian Navy
4. Ranjitsinh Disale appointed as an education adviser by World Bank
5. Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021
6. Hitendra Dave has been appointed as CEO of HSBC India
7. Rajesh Pendharkar assumes Charge as Director General Naval Operations
8. Anup Chandra Pandey appointed as Election Commissioner of India
9. Government of Assam to confer awards on lines of Bharat Ratna, Padma awards
10. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh reappointed as MD and CEO of Bandhan Bank
11. Save Me Too TV series won 'Best Drama' BAFTA TV Awards 2021
12. RBI Deputy Governor Mahesh Kumar Jain got 2 years extension
13. M R Kumar has been re-appointed as the chairman of LIC
14. Justice A K Sikri appointed as Chairman of IAMAI's Grievance Redressal Board
15. UN Security Council Recommends António Guterres for Second Term
16. Rebecca Grynspan appointed as head of UNCTAD
17. Sanjay Yadav appointed as the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court

18. Sunita Narayan appointed to an international advisory group for climate action
19. Ajai Puri re-elected as COAI chairman for 2021-22
20. Satya Nadella appointed as the New Chairman of Microsoft
21. Aashish Chandorkar appointed as Director at India's WTO mission
22. Yuvraj Singh become the face of puma motorsport India
23. Mavya Sudan becomes the first woman fighter pilot in J&K Air Force
24. N K Sodhi is the chairman of takeover panel reconstituted by SEBI
25. Dr Tadang Minu appointed as AIBA's coaches committee member
26. Sumita Mitra has been awarded with 'European inventor Award 2021'
27. Justice Bhandari appointed as acting Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court
28. Nikol Pashinyan has been elected as the Prime Minister of Armenia
29. Karnam Malleswari appointed as the first Vice Chancellor of Delhi Sports University
30. Jamsetji Tata on the first place in the list of the world's biggest donors
31. Pradeep Tiwana become the first Indian to be appointed a judge in Australia
32. India Smart Cities Award Contest 2020
33. Suresh N. Patel appointed as acting CVC in the Central Vigilance Commission
34. Hockey India nominates Sreejesh and Deepika for Khel Ratna
35. KK Venugopal's tenure as Attorney General extended by another year
36. Rahi Sarnobat won gold medal in women's 25m pistol event
37. P. Sainath selected as one of the three recipients of Fukuoka Prize 2021

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

1. Index of Eight Core Industries for April, 2021
2. Government gave approval to four firms under PLI scheme for bulk drugs
3. Second list of 108 Military items under Self-Reliance & Defence Exports
4. India's GDP shrank by 7.3% in 2020-21
5. Operational guidelines for Production Linked Incentive Scheme of Pharmaceuticals
6. Operational guidelines for PLI Scheme for telecom & networking equipment
7. Financial inclusion is a top priority for government
8. Rules for white goods PLI scheme
9. Kerala launched Knowledge Economy Mission to boost job prospects
10. World Bank approved \$500 mn program to help boost India's MSME sector
11. India commences export of 16 varieties of mangoes to Bahrain
12. India exports 24 metric tonne of groundnuts to Nepal
13. Increase in MSP for Kharif crops for marketing season 2020-21
14. India's Forex reserves cross \$600 billion for first time
15. SBI launched 'Kavach' personal loans for Covid-stressed customers
16. India's agriculture exports registers increase of 17.34% in 2020-21
17. GI certified Zardalu mangoes exported to the United Kingdom

18. Centre Simplifies Registration Process for MSMEs
19. GI certified Jalgaon banana has been exported to Dubai
20. ADB Bank to provide a USD 484 million loan to improve transport connectivity
21. Line of Credit agreement between India and Sri Lanka in Solar Energy Sector
22. Ministry of Tourism released 3 draft strategies to boost the tourism sector
23. India secured Fifth rank in foreign direct investments (FDI) in 2020
24. Samsung shifts display manufacturing unit from China to UP's Noida
25. Exotic dragon fruit from Maharashtra exported to Dubai
26. APEDA facilitated exports of Burmese grapes 'Leteku' to Dubai

GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT:

1. Declining forest bird species in Western Himalaya
2. Litoria mira, the real life version of chocolate frog found
3. Monsoon Rainfall likely to be 101% of Long Period Average
4. 41 cities testing cycling friendly initiatives in India
5. HDFC Bank to become carbon neutral by 2031-32
6. In China's Jiangsu province, the first human case of H1ON3 bird flu reported
7. Clean energy innovation to accelerate achieving the Paris Agreement Goals
8. WHO joins the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
9. Blue-finned Mahseer out of IUCN red list
10. NTPC signs up UN's CEO Water Mandate to step up work on water conservation
11. UNEP praises a sand art made by Sudarsan Pattnaik
12. "Largest Green Railways" in the world with Zero Carbon Emission
13. Raimona reserve forest named sixth national park in Assam
14. State of India's Environment 2021, report
15. New product category of Green Room Air Conditioners
16. CESL signed MoU with Ladakh to make the Union Territory carbon neutral
17. Rengma Nagas demand autonomous district council
18. India to install 20 GW of wind energy capacity by 2025
19. Two species of monals sighted together in Arunachal Pradesh
20. Over 200 Pakke Tiger Reserve workers may finally get their dues
21. Maharashtra proposed amendments for protection of 'heritage' trees
22. Fifth Ocean officially added to world map
23. First ever Solo Woman Motorcycle Expedition
24. 15-metre tree discovered in Andaman & Nicobar Islands
25. Operation Olivia to protect Olive Ridley turtles
26. India is working towards restoring 2.6 crore hectare of degraded land
27. Centre releases Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India
28. Radio Telemetry deployed to identify corridors used by tigers in the Vidarbha landscape

29. Navy adopts roadmap for synergising aim of 'Blue Water Operations with a Green Footprint'
30. Great Barrier Reef should be added to UNESCO's list of "in danger"
31. Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary to become the 4th Tiger reserve of Rajasthan
32. World's first genetically modified (GM) rubber plant has planted in Assam
33. Karnataka launched a dedicated war room for animal welfare
34. Delhi launched a 15-day "Van Mahotsav" Program to increase the green cover
35. NTPC to install 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032
36. Association of cloud bursts with forest fires

HISTORY, ART & CULTURE:

1. 3 new caves discovered in the Trirashmi Buddhist cave complex of Nashik
2. NCSM collaborates with SMG-London for international travelling exhibition
3. Ban of entry to the ordinary citizens in Sri Nanjundeswara temple
4. Rajasthan to set up Vedic Education and Sanskar Board
5. MoU signed for development of National Maritime Heritage Complex
6. Culture Ministry organised Flag Satyagraha in Madhya Pradesh

IMPORTANT DAYS & EVENTS:

1. Health Ministry's event to mark the 'World No Tobacco Day'
2. World Milk Day 2021
3. National Egg Day 2021
4. World Environment Day 2021
5. World Bicycle Day 2021
6. World Oceans Day 2021
7. World Child labour Prohibition Day 2021
8. World Blood Donor Day 2021
9. World Wind Day 2021
10. Raja Parba festival is celebrated in Odisha
11. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2021
12. World Sea Turtle Day 2021
13. Jyeshtha Ashtami 2021
14. World Refugee Day 2021
15. International Day of Yoga 2021
16. World Sickle Cell Day 2021
17. Fleet Awards Function 2021
18. 18th Foundation Day of National Internet Exchange of India
19. International Olympic Day 2021
20. International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice 2021

21. World Music Day 2021
22. International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2021
23. International Seafarers Day 2021
24. Famous Snaana yatra of Lord Jagannath begins at Puri
25. National Statistics Day 2021

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

1. China Announced the 3-Child Policy
2. Germany recognising the colonial-era genocide in Namibia
3. China's space station plans gather pace with cargo docking
4. Cabinet approved ratifying SCO agreement on mass media cooperation
5. Isaac Herzog elected as the new president of Israel
6. African Union suspends Mali after military coup & threatens sanctions
7. Largest warship in the Iranian navy caught fire and sank
8. India to vote for Maldives in UNGA President election
9. The Red Tourism promoted by China
10. Facebook suspends Donald Trump's account until 2023
11. Syria has likely used chemical weapons 17 times
12. India elected to UN Economic and Social Council for 2 years
13. Kenya launched Mega infrastructure project, the Lamu port
14. International cooperation to bring back fugitive economic offenders
15. Interpol launched Global database to identify missing persons
16. G7 corporate tax deal for India and the world
17. Abdulla Shahid elected president of 76th session of UN General Assembly
18. China hosts ASEAN ministers to push back against Quad
19. Militant attack in Burkina Faso
20. El Salvador becomes first country to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender
21. EIU releases Global Liveability Ranking 2021
22. PM Modi calls for open vaccine chains, 'one world, one health'
23. First meeting of WHO high level coalition on health, energy
24. Discovered Small Field bid round-III for international competitive bidding
25. US signed new Atlantic Charter on trade with UK
26. G7 rivals China with grand infrastructure plan
27. India and Kuwait signed MoU for cooperation on recruitment of Indian workers
28. India unlikely to allow return of 4 Kerala women who joined Islamic State
29. UN Security Council (UNSC)'s non-permanent members for 2022-23 term
30. Naftali Bennett elected as New Prime Minister of Israel
31. Centre received Rs 10 crore by Italy as compensation in fishermen killing case
32. B3W to counter the Belt and Road Initiative of China

33. 31st formal meeting of heads of government of NATO
34. World Giving Index 2021
35. The 5th edition of VivaTech held in Paris, France
36. S. Jaishankar has inaugurated Mahatma Gandhi Library in Nairobi
37. A tense Food Shortage is facing by North Korea
38. Bangladesh to set up international vaccine institute
39. Pakistanis Protests against Chinese Ships at Gwadar
40. Zambia's founding president Kenneth Kaunda Passed away
41. Ebrahim Raisi won the Iran's presidential election
42. ADB loan to Social development programmes in Bangladesh
43. Bengaluru topped the list of Ease of Living Index 2020
44. Hungary banned LGBT content from school curriculum
45. Biden signed bill making Juneteenth a national holiday
46. Israel becomes the first country to use Aerial Laser Weapons to shoot down hostile drones
47. Ajit Doval proposed action against Pak terror groups at SCO meet
48. Russia and UK at odds over incident in the Black Sea
49. Pakistan to remain on FATF grey list
50. China is going to run first electric train in Tibet
51. Archaeologists have discovered new human species in Israel

POLITY & GOVERNANCE:

1. Bengal chief Secretary retired, to act as chief advisor to CM
2. Delhi HC dismisses plea seeking to halt Central Vista work
3. Expert Committee on Variable Capital Company submits its report to the IFSCA
4. Govt introduced a New system of processing of the Insurance claims
5. Model Tenancy Act for circulation to the States/Union Territories for adoption
6. Supreme Court verdict on sedition case against Vinod Dua
7. Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) 2021
8. Citizenship to minority migrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh
9. Draft Model Rules for Live-Streaming and Recording of Court
10. Bombay HC cancels Amravati MP Navneet Kaur Rana's caste certificate
11. Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act of 2021
12. ECI released an Atlas on General Elections 2019
13. MoRTH Notified Common Format for Issuance of PUC
14. Nandigram poll defeat challenges by Mamata Banerjee in Calcutta HC
15. Tamil Nadu announced the formation of Economic Advisory Council to CM
16. Bihar government extends 'Mukhya Mantri Udyaymi Yojna' scheme
17. Finance Act, 2021 inserted two new sections 206AB and 206CCA
18. Tamil Nadu released guidelines for protecting school students from sexual abuse

19. Gujarat launched the 'Agricultural Diversification Scheme', 2021
20. Task force to help govt in bringing major reforms in bureaucracy
21. Centre launched 'itad e-dwar', an e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal
22. Government announces big tax reliefs for taxpayers

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

1. NASA to send 128 glow-in-the-dark baby squids to ISS
2. India's first indigenous temperature data logger for the cold chain management
3. RDSO becomes the FIRST Institution to be declared SDO under one
4. NASA selects two missions for launch to Venus
5. China launched new generation meteorological satellite
6. Indigenous Chip-Off technique to retrieve encrypted data
7. India's First Indigenous Tumour Antigen SPAG9 for Cancer Treatments
8. OneWeb's LEO constellation reached 218 in-orbit satellites
9. Jeff Bezos is going to space on his rocket company's first crewed flight
10. Indian Navy inducts 3 Indigenously-Built Advanced Light Helicopters
11. Allocation of 5 MHz spectrum in 700 MHz frequency band to Indian Railways
12. IIT-Kharagpur develops Early Cyclone Detection Technique
13. Google to build longest Undersea Cable in the World
14. Anti-hail guns to help out to Himachal's problem of crop damage
15. Fastly fixes CDN glitch caused the websites to go down
16. CHIME telescope yields unprecedented results
17. ESA launched the Mission 'EnVision' to study the planet Venus
18. ESA to developed World's First Wooden Satellite called WISA Woodsat
19. IITs Ropar developed the first electrical free CPAP device Jeevan Vayu
20. IIT Delhi to establish transportation research and injury prevention centre
21. TRAI launched TV Channel Selector web portal
22. The role of animal serum in making of vaccines
23. According to IIT Indore, Aloe-vera may be useful in making memory chips
24. IMD to install seven new doppler radars in Maharashtra
25. Researchers discovered antibodies of Nipah virus in bats
26. DRDO successfully test fired Enhanced Pinaka Rocket
27. DRDO successfully test-fired the subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay'
28. Microsoft officially launched next generation operating system Window 11
29. ARDE develops life-saving 'Canopy Severance System'
30. DRDO initiates the trials of advanced stealth SWiFT drone
31. Amazon acquired encrypted messaging application "Wickr"
32. DRDO successfully flight tests New Generation Agni P Ballistic Missile
33. First-of-its-kind initiative to advance deep tech-based research in India

SOCIETY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE:

1. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme Expanded
2. Maratha community can take benefits under 10% EWS quota
3. Split rural jobs scheme wages into separate categories for SCs, STs
4. Nearly 10,000 children in country need immediate care and protection
5. Expert panel to fix minimum pay and national floor wage
6. Bihar reserves 33% seats in engineering, medical colleges for girls
7. SAGE initiative and SAGE portal to support India's elderly
8. UNICEF reaches coronavirus vaccine supply agreement with Moderna
9. WHO Nomenclature on the variant of SARS-CoV-2
10. Centre releases a model Panchayat Citizens Charter
11. India ranks 117 on 17 SDGs adopted as 2030 agenda
12. Pension norms eased for families of deceased staff
13. Free ration under Garib Kalyan Yojna extended till Diwali
14. Haryana to create 80 acres of 'Oxi-van'
15. Every household in North-West India to get tap water connection by 2022
16. Delhi govt hospital banned nursing staff from speaking in Malayalam
17. Rajasthan Govt approved Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Energy Yojana
18. Kerala state government launched Smart Kitchen project
19. Centre allocates Rs. 10870 crore to Uttar Pradesh under 'Jal Jeevan Mission'
20. Twitter Campaign for Official Status to Tulu Language
21. Odisha approved the recruitment of Transgender in Police
22. Tribal livelihoods initiative "Sankalp Se Siddhi – Mission Van Dhan"
23. Tribal Affairs Ministry launched 'Aadi Prashikshan Portal'
24. Civil Registration System shows uptick in birth
25. Govt to establishment of five Divyangta Khel Kendras in country
26. Ministry of Minority Affairs launched "Jaan Hai To Jahaan Hai" campaign
27. Odisha launched 'Ashirbad' scheme for COVID-19 Orphan Children
28. India responds to the concerns raised by UN's Human Rights Council
29. 'Sakshama' COVID helpline for specially abled rolled out in Bengaluru
30. Mizoram announced an incentive for having maximum number of children
31. West Bengal approved "Student Credit Card scheme" in their state
32. Mission Youth to select 2500 students for Competitive Examinations' coaching
33. National Convention on Prevention of Maternal, Adolescent and Childhood Obesity
34. Government launched website for "Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan"
35. Captchas accessibility of High Court to physically disabled people
36. FM announced relief package worth Rs 6,28,993 crore against COVID-19

SPORTS:

1. Pooja Rani clinches second gold in a row in Asian Boxing Championships
2. India gets 8 new flying training academies
3. Sunil Chhetri becomes the second-highest active international goalscorer
4. Brisbane is selected to the host of 2032 Olympic Games
5. Aruna Tanwar becomes First-ever Indian Taekwondo Athlete to Qualify for Tokyo Paralympics
6. Sports Ministry launched Central Athlete Injury Management System
7. Barbora Krajsikova won the women's singles and Double title in French Open Tennis
8. Novak Djokovic won 'French Open Men's Singles Title 2021
9. Venu Makand become the 7th Indian player to be inducted into ICC Hall of Fame
10. Saba Sakr becomes the first female boxing coach of Egypt
11. BCCI lifted the life ban imposed on Ankit Chavan
12. Weightlifting at the Tokyo Olympics over past doping cases banned
13. Lauren Hubbard will be the first transgender to participate in the Olympics
14. Tajinderpal Singh put player qualifies for Tokyo Olympics 2020
15. Manpreet Singh will lead Indian men's hockey team in Olympics
16. New Zealand won the First ICC World Test Championship 2021
17. India's official Olympic theme song composed and sung by Mohit Chauhan
18. Saurabh Chaudhary won Bronze Medal in ISSF World Cup 2021
19. Zhang Zhizhen becomes first Chinese man to qualify for Wimbledon
20. Abhishek Verma won compound men's individual gold in Archery World Cup
21. Kerala Swimmer Sajan Prakash qualify for the Tokyo Olympics
22. Jharkhand SCA is to establish an International Cricket stadium in Bokaro
23. Youngest Indian cricketer to make debut across all formats in International Cricket
24. The T20 World Cup will be held in UAE this year

SECURITY:

1. Operation Sagar Aaraksha II conducted by Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
2. Construction of six Conventional Submarines under Project P 75 (I)
3. America set to hand over three MH-60 Romeo helicopters to India
4. Indian Navy conducted 31st edition of CORPAT Exercise with Thailand
5. S-400 SAMs knocked out in Simulated Strikes by US
6. India has 156 nuclear warheads according to SIPRI
7. Maiden IN – EUNAVFOR Joint Naval Exercise in the Gulf of Aden
8. Indian Navy has conducted a Passage Exercise in Indian Ocean Region with US
9. Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant to be introduce in Indian Navy by 2022
10. Indian Navy's Joint Exercises with friendly Navies in Africa and Europe

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Suryakiran aerobatic display team completes 25 years
2. RBI cancels licence of Pune-based Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank
3. 100th anniversary of the raising of Army Educational Corps (AEC)
4. MoFAHD chaired a virtual program on the occasion of World Milk Day
5. Oral tablets of Amphotericin B to treat fungal infections
6. WHO approves China's SINOVAC Covid vaccine for emergency use
7. NITI Aayog to release the SDG India Index & Dashboard, 2020-21
8. YounTab scheme for students to encourage digital learning
9. CBSE to introduce Coding and Data Science curriculum
10. Education Minister approves Performance Grading Index 2019-20 for States, UTs
11. Weyan becomes first village in India to achieve 100% vaccination of adults
12. The First Solar Eclipse of 2021
13. 3 Indian Universities Top in 200 QS World University Rankings
14. Ministry of Education releases AISHE 2019-20 report
15. Akshay Kumar becomes Brand Ambassador of 'Mylab Discovery Solutions'
16. Ministry of Education launched 'PRABANDH' portal
17. Ministry of AYUSH launches 'Namaste Yoga' Mobile App
18. Women growing turmeric in Odisha's Koraput district
19. Madhya Pradesh launch 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan
20. Jitendra Singh participated in the "Diabetes India World Congress – 2021"
21. Budgetary support of Rs 498.8 crore for innovation in defense sector
22. Telangana started Medicine from the sky project
23. Project O2 for India to increase supply of medical oxygen
24. Volleyball player Nirmal Milkha Singh passed away
25. Suresh Raina's autobiography "Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me"
26. Ladakh declared "Open Defecation Free" in India
27. NHA made drone survey mandatory for all National Highway projects
28. Amazon launched ML (Machine Learning) Summer School
29. Global Skills Report 2021
30. Indian Army holds trial run of train on Dedicated Freight Corridor
31. Delhi decided to train 5,000 youths as health assistants
32. Telangana government launched a programme called 'Revv up'
33. PM Narendra Modi's approval rating highest among world leaders
34. India ranks 43rd in IMD's World Competitiveness Index 2021
35. India ranks 135th in 15th edition of Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021
36. Ministry of Home Affairs launches national helpline no. to report cyber crime
37. Reducing Road Accident Deaths by 50% by Year 2024
38. Government amended Cable Television Network Rules

39. Arjun Munda inaugurated the Second National Sickle Cell Conclave
40. Prime Minister Modi launched M-Yoga app
41. Delhi government has launched Course in 'Yoga Science'
42. India host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9)
43. GoI signed MoU with World Bank for Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project
44. Ministry of Education organised Toycathon 2021
45. Japan to provide USD 9.3 million aid to India to build cold chain system
46. Ruskin Bond authored the book "It's a Wonderful Life"
47. Andhra Pradesh dispenses with interviews for future recruitments in government jobs
48. Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy inaugurated in Ahmedabad
49. 100 best medical colleges of the world in 2021
50. Interim Grievance Officer of Twitter in India has resigned from the post
51. Sundeep Mishra authored the book "Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story"
52. Office of Principal Scientific Adviser launched the Atmanirbhar Krishi APP
53. Justice Department launches "Enforcing Contracts Portal"
54. India got Asia's longest and world's fifth longest High Speed Track for automobiles

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Blind Chinese man Zhang Hong climbs Mount Everest

Zhang Hong, from China scaled the tallest peak in the world from the Nepal side, becoming the first blind man in Asia and the third in the world to climb Mount Everest.

Zhang completed the 8,849 metre-high Himalayan feat on May 24 along with three high altitude guides, and returned to the base camp.

Erik Weihenmayer became the first blind person to reach the summit of Mt. Everest. In 2008 he climbed Carstensz Pyramid on the island of Papua New Guinea, completing the Seven Summits, the highest point on every continent.

Bachendri Pal was an Indian mountaineer who in 1984 became the first Indian woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

Justice Arun Mishra takes over as NHRC Chairman

Justice Arun Kumar Mishra recently took over as the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Justice Mishra had retired from the Supreme Court in September 2020.

Justice Arun Mishra had enrolled as a lawyer in 1978 and was elected the youngest chairperson of Bar Council of India in 1998-99.

He was appointed judge of Madhya Pradesh High Court in October 1999. He later served as the Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court and Calcutta High Court before being elevated to the Supreme Court on July 7, 2014.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is a Statutory public body constituted on

12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993. It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (PHRA).

The NHRC is the National Human Rights Commission of India, responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, defined by the Act as "Rights Relating To Life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India".

Dinesh K Tripathi assumes charge as Chief of Personnel of Indian Navy

Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi recently assumed charge as Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy. The flag officer is a specialist in communication and electronic warfare and has served on frontline warships of the Navy.

Previously he served as the Director General of Naval Operations (DGNO) at Naval HQ. His earlier appointments include Commandant of Indian Naval Academy and Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF).

Tripathi was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the Executive branch on 1 July 1985. He is a specialist in Communication and Electronic warfare.

In the early years of his career, he served as a Signals Communication officer and Electronic Warfare Officer of the Guided missile destroyer, INS Mumbai (D62).

He has completed the staff course at the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) in Wellington Cantonment where he won the

Thimayya Medal, the higher command course at the Naval War College, Goa.

He has also attended the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island in the United States when he was awarded the Robert E Bateman International Prize.

Ranjitsinh Disale appointed as an education adviser by World Bank

A Maharashtra village teacher, Ranjitsinh Disale, who won the Global Teacher Prize 2020, has now been appointed as an education adviser with the World Bank.

As one of his first projects with the international organisation, Disale is devising a strategy to make schools across the world safer for kids.

The World Bank has launched a new Coach initiative that aims to accelerate student learning by improving in-service teacher professional development (TPD).

The World Bank has appointed 12 advisors from world over and Mr. Disale is one of them representing India. He will be an advisor to the World Bank till December 2024.

World Bank has recently launched the Global Coach Program, a new initiative focused on accelerating learning by helping countries improve in-service teacher professional development (TPD) programs and systems.

This program forms part of the World Bank's broader agenda to tackle the global learning crisis (WDR, 2018).

Coach focuses on supporting countries improve in-service TPD through a two-pronged approach.

The Coach program focuses on helping countries transform their TPD programs and policies to

ones that adhere to a set of four key principles that have been shown to be linked to improved teaching quality.

Disale's work through the Advisory Board will impact the work World Bank on the ground, currently supporting over 18 million teachers around the world.

Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021

Thomas Vijayan won the jury of Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021 competition. His picture beat 8,000 entries from around the world to win the top prize of £1,500.

Vijayan, a photographer from Canada, shot the spectacular picture called The World is Going Upside Down.

Vijayan's photograph captures an orangutan clinging on to a tree, however since the tree was half immersed into water, the reflection of the sky, and the forest canopy created an optical illusion. So, the title of the image aptly describes the picture.

Nature TTL is the world's leading online nature photography resource. Thousands of photographers enjoy our free, in-depth tutorials each day.

Hitendra Dave has been appointed as CEO of HSBC India

HSBC announced Hitendra Dave appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of HSBC India on receipt of regulatory approval, and has been appointed the interim CEO.

Dave is a postgraduate in business administration and holds a degree in Economics from Delhi University.

Dave succeeds Surendra Rosha who will be moving to Hong Kong as the co-chief executive of HSBC Asia-Pacific.

Dave, formerly head of global banking and markets of HSBC India, has almost 30 years work experience in the Indian financial markets, of which the last 20 have been with HSBC.

Rajesh Pendharkar assumes Charge as Director General Naval Operations

Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, AVSM, VSM recently assumed charge as Director General Naval Operations.

The Flag Officer is a specialist in Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and has served on frontline warships of the Navy as ASW Officer and later as the Executive Officer and Principal Warfare Officer of Guided Destroyer INS Mysore.

INS Sandhayak Decommissioned on June 4, 2021 After Serving the Nation for 40 Years, Ceremony Held at Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam.

Chief of Naval Staff – Admiral Karambir Singh

Vice Chief of the Naval Staff - Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar

Deputy Chief of Naval Staff - Ravneet Singh

3 operational Commands of Indian Navy

- **Eastern Naval Command** – Headquartered at Visakhapatnam
- **Western Naval Command** – Headquartered at Mumbai
- **Southern Naval Command** – Headquartered at Kochi

Anup Chandra Pandey appointed as Election Commissioner of India

Centre recently appointed Anup Chandra Pandey, a retired IAS officer of the 1984 batch, Uttar Pradesh cadre, as Election Commissioner.

Pandey had served as the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and also as the Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner of the state.

Pandey has been appointed to the position left vacant by former Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora's retirement on April 12.

This restores the three-member commission to its full strength, which will now oversee the next set of crucial assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Manipur and Uttarakhand next year.

Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar are the other two members on the panel.

Government of Assam to confer awards on lines of Bharat Ratna, Padma awards

The state government of Assam decided to institute the 'Asom Ratna' award to be presented every year to one person who has made a significant contribution to society.

The cabinet also decided to bestow 'Asom Bibhushan' award to 3 people, 'Assam Bhushan' to 5 people and 'Asom Shree' to 10 people every year.

The awards will be accompanied by a cash reward of Rs 5 lakhs, Rs 3 lakhs, Rs 2 lakhs and Rs 1 lakh, respectively, with other benefits like

free medical treatment of critical illness, free stay at Assam Bhawans, free travel on ASTC buses, among others.

The government also decided that from the current year onwards, Literary Pension will be conferred in the name of litterateur Dr Homen Borgohain on his birthday, December 7.

Sports Pension will also be given in the name of Arjun Bhogeswar Barua on his birthday, September 3 and the Artiste Award on January 17 every year.

Chandra Shekhar Ghosh reappointed as MD and CEO of Bandhan Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to re-appointment Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Kolkata-based Bandhan Bank.

It only for a period of three years, as against a five-year tenure approved by the bank's board.

Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, born in 1960 at Bishalgarh in Tripura, India, is the founder, CEO and managing director of Bandhan Bank.

Ghosh started Bandhan-Konnagar in 2001 with a capital of INR 2,00,000 and three employees in Kolkata, West Bengal.

The NGO provided microfinance services to small and marginalised women entrepreneurs in areas not assisted by formal banking services.

In 2009, Ghosh transferred the microfinance portfolio of the NGO to the NBFC that he had acquired. In 2010, Bandhan was recognised as the largest microfinance entity in India.

Save Me Too TV series won 'Best Drama' BAFTA TV Awards 2021

Save Me Too, a TV series recently won 'Best Drama' BAFTA TV Awards 2021. The series that was created, written and stars James had some strong competition for this award.

BAFTA is the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and held its 74th ceremony on June 6, 2021.

In addition to the Awards, BAFTA provides year-round learning events offering learning via workshops and classes with some of the world's greatest talents.

Save Me Too is the second series in the Save Me family. The first series, titled Save Me, was released in 2018, and the second series was released in 2020.

RBI Deputy Governor Mahesh Kumar Jain got 2 years extension

The Reserve Bank has extended the tenure of Deputy Governor Mahesh Kumar Jain for two years.

Jain was appointed as deputy governor for three years in June 2018. Before joining the Reserve Bank of India, he was managing director of IDBI Bank.

The other three serving deputy governors are Michael Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao and T Rabi Sankar.

The Reserve Bank of India was established following the Reserve Bank of India Act of 1934. Though privately owned initially, it was nationalised in 1949 and since then fully owned by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It's Headquarters located in Mumbai.

The primary objective of RBI is to undertake consolidated supervision of the financial sector

comprising commercial banks, financial institutions, and non-banking finance companies.

M R Kumar has been re-appointed as the chairman of LIC

MR Kumar has been re-appointed as the chairman of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) till March 13, 2022.

Kumar's reappointment is crucial as the state-owned insurer is eyeing an IPO (Initial Public Offering) in the current fiscal year.

LIC is India's 2nd-largest financial services institution with a Rs 31 lakh crore balance sheet, next to the country's largest bank, State Bank of India (SBI), which has assets of Rs 39.51 lakh crore.

LIC earned Rs 57,958 crore first-year premium and Rs 1,20,317 crore single premium in FY20. Renewal premiums were Rs 2,01,113 crore.

These figures (including investment income) gave it net revenues of Rs 6.15 lakh crore. RIL reported Rs 3.65 lakh crore revenues in FY20. This shows the enormity of the task before LIC's valuers.

About LIC

- **Chairperson:** M R Kumar
- **MD and CEO:** Siddhartha Mohanty
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1 September 1956

Justice A K Sikri appointed as Chairman of IAMAI's Grievance Redressal Board

Former Supreme Court Judge Arjan Kumar Sikri appointed as the Chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India, a self-regulatory

body for streaming content companies like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video.

The Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council (DPCGC), the body whose Grievance Redressal Board (GRB) Sikri will be chairing, has been constituted in compliance with the recently notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

Some OTT services who were previously under the IAMAI's aegis have decided to join a different self-regulatory body under the Indian Broadcasting Foundation, which has so far been an SRB for TV broadcasters.

UN Security Council Recommends António Guterres for Second Term

The United Nations Security Council recommended the re-election of António Guterres as secretary general, assuring a second term for the Portuguese statesman that will keep him in office until 2027.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations (UNSG or SG) is the head of the United Nations Secretariat, one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.

The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Security Council. The Secretary-General's selection is therefore subject to the veto of any of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The office's qualifications are open to interpretation and have been established by custom and precedent in previous selections.

The length of the term is discretionary, but all secretaries-general since 1971 have been appointed to five-year terms.

While there are no term limits applicable to this post, no Secretary-General has so far served more than two terms. No secretary-general since 1981 has attempted to secure a third term.

Rebecca Grynspan appointed as head of UNCTAD

The UN General Assembly approved the nomination of Costa Rican economist Rebecca Grynspan to head the UN agency promoting trade and development.

Rebecca Grynspan will be the first woman and Central American to lead the Geneva-based organisation.

She was nominated by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

It supports developing countries in their efforts to benefit from the globalised economy and to deal with potential drawbacks from economic integration.

She previously served as UNDP's regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean, a member of the high-level panel on financing for development, and second vice president of Costa Rica from 1994 to 1998.

Sanjay Yadav appointed as the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court

Recently, Justice Sanjay Yadav took oath as the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court at the Gandhi Hall of the Raj Bhavan in Lucknow. Uttar

Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Justice Yadav.

Justice Yadav would, however, demit the office on 25 June this year when he turns 62. Chief Justices and judges of high courts retire at the age of 62.

Born on 26 June, 1959, Justice Yadav had enrolled as an advocate on 25 August, 1986. He practised on civil, revenue and constitutional sides in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur.

He also served as the deputy advocate general of Madhya Pradesh.

Justice Yadav was elevated as a judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh on 2 March, 2007 and a permanent judge on 15 January, 2010.

Sunita Narayan appointed to an international advisory group for climate action

India's Environmentalist, Writer and Director General of The Centre for Science & Environment, Sunita Narain has been appointed to an international advisory group for action on environment, climate and biodiversity.

She was appointed by Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Per Olsson Fridh.

This group helps Sweden's efforts to address the halt of biodiversity, depletion of ecosystems and most importantly climate change.

It has international experts who provide a deep commitment and knowledge in the field, which is very important as strong global action on these issues is needed which will help in sustainable

and equitable development. And will also prevent new pandemics and conflicts.

Under the leadership of Ms Narain, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) was awarded the Stockholm Water Prize in 2005.

The Centre's work on rainwater harvesting showed many new ways in which people could survive during water scarcity.

Ajai Puri re-elected as COAI chairman for 2021-22

Ajai Puri has been re-elected as Chairman of the industry association for 2021-22. Pramod Kumar Mittal, President of Reliance Jio Infocomm, will continue as Vice Chairman of the association.

COAI - whose members include telcos like Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea - noted that the past year has been one of the most eventful and challenging for the Indian telecom industry.

The association "is optimistic about the future of the industry and the opportunities ahead, as 5G and allied technologies get closer to commercial deployment".

The adjusted gross revenue (AGR) ruling of the Supreme Court added to the challenges posed by the pandemic, the nationwide lockdowns, and the multiple cyclones that battered India.

Satya Nadella appointed as the New Chairman of Microsoft

Microsoft recently appointed chief executive officer Satya Nadella as the chairman of the company. Under Nadella's watch, the software giant has become one of the most valuable companies in the world.

Nadella, the company's third CEO, will also be the third chairman in Microsoft's history, following Gates and Thompson.

He took over as a CEO of Microsoft in 2014 from Steve Ballmer. He has focused the company around cloud computing, mobile applications and artificial intelligence while breathing new life into the Office software franchise.

Microsoft's shares have soared more than sevenfold under his leadership and its market value is approaching \$2 trillion.

Aashish Chandorkar appointed as Director at India's WTO mission

The government has appointed a private person Aashish Chandorkar as 'Counsellor' in India's Permanent Mission in the World Trade Organisation for three years.

The appointment of a private person is a first at the Mission and comes ahead of a crucial ministerial conference of the WTO later this year.

Chandorkar is director of Bengaluru-based policy think tank Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research.

The WTO is a 164-member multi-lateral body, which deals with global trade. India is a member since 1995.

Yuvraj Singh become the face of puma motorsport India

PUMA has extended its decade long partnership with former Indian Cricketer Yuvraj Singh by signing him as the face of PUMA Motorsport in India.

Globally, PUMA is associated with Scuderia Ferrari, Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One

Team, Aston Martin Red Bull Racing, BMW M Motorsport and Porche Motorsport.

With India being one of the biggest markets for PUMA motorsport, the brand looks to capitalize on the growing demand for streetstyle products inspired by performance gear.

Mavya Sudan becomes the first woman fighter pilot in J&K Air Force

Mawya Sudan has become the first woman fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF) from Rajouri district.

Hailing from the village of Lamberi, of Border Tehsil of Nowshera in Rajouri, she commissioned into the IAF as Flying Officer.

Mawya has become the 12th woman officer and first from Rajouri to be inducted as a fighter pilot in the IAF.

Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria reviewed the combined graduation passing out parade, held at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal, Hyderabad.

N K Sodhi is the chairman of takeover panel reconstituted by SEBI

Securities and Exchange Board of India has reconstituted its Takeover Panel, which looks into the applications seeking exemption from the mandatory open offer that an acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders.

The regulator has appointed N Venkatram MD and CEO, Deloitte India as the new member of the Takeover Panel.

The panel, chaired by N K Sodhi, the former chief justice of the high courts of Karnataka and Kerala, makes its recommendations to Sebi on such applications after which the regulator gives

an opportunity to concerned parties before passing an order.

The other members of the panel are Darius Khambata (former advocate general, Maharashtra) and Thomas Mathew T (former chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India).

Sebi had first constituted a four-member Takeover Panel in November 2007, under chairmanship of former Bank of Baroda chairman K Kannan.

Dr Tadang Minu appointed as AIBA's coaches committee member

Dr Tadang Minu from Arunachal has become the first woman in the country and the second Indian to be appointed as a member of the Coaches Committee of the International Boxing Association (AIBA).

Dr Minu, an assistant professor at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), was appointed to the post by the AIBA recently, considering her vast experience in the field of boxing.

Dr Minu, who is the HoD (in-charge) of the physical education department of RGU, has also been retained as the Boxing Federation of India's Women's Commission chairman for another two years.

She is also the president of the Arunachal Amateur Boxing Association (AABA). The BFI has also appointed Teli Kahi from Arunachal as its Youth Commission secretary.

Sumita Mitra has been awarded with 'European inventor Award 2021'

Indian-American chemist Sumita Mitra has won the European Inventor Award 2021 in the 'Non-EPO countries' category.

Mitra was the first to successfully integrate nanotechnology into dental materials to produce stronger and more aesthetically pleasing fillings, which are now used by dentists around the world.

The Award, one of Europe's most prestigious innovation prizes, is presented annually by the EPO to distinguish outstanding inventors from Europe and beyond who have made an exceptional contribution to society, technological progress and economic growth.

Sumita Mitra discovered that incorporating nanoparticles into dental materials can produce fillings that are stronger, more durable and more aesthetic.

The 2021 European Inventor Award ceremony was held digitally this year. The finalists and winners in five categories (industry, research, SMEs, non-EPO countries, and lifetime achievement) were selected by an independent international jury.

Justice Bhandari appointed as acting Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court

Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari has been appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court with effect from June 26

Justice Bhandari, the senior-most Judge of the Allahabad High Court, will be performing the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of the high Court consequent upon the retirement of Justice Sanjay Yadav, Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court.

Justice Bhandari was appointed as Judge of the High Court of Rajasthan High Court on Jul 5, 2007 and he was transferred to Allahabad High Court and took oath as Judge on March 15, 2019.

He was Standing Counsel for Railways; Rajasthan Road Transport Corporation; Nuclear Power Corporation; State Election Commission; Rajasthan University; all Government Electricity Companies of Rajasthan; Jaipur Development Authority; Jaipur Municipal Corporation; Rajasthan Housing Board; Ganga Nagar Sugar Mills Ltd.; Rajasthan Agricultural University.

Nikol Pashinyan has been elected as the Prime Minister of Armenia

Nikol Pashinyan has been elected as the Prime Minister of Armenia, preliminary results from all 2,008 polling stations give the Civil Contract party 54%.

Armenia is a landlocked country located in the Armenian Highlands of Western Asia. It is a developing country and ranks 81st on the Human Development Index (2018).

It is a part of the Caucasus region; and is bordered by Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, the Lachin corridor under a Russian peacekeeping force, and Azerbaijan to the east, and Iran and the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhchivan to the south.

Armenia's economy is primarily based on industrial output and mineral extraction. While Armenia is geographically located in the South Caucasus, it is generally considered geopolitically European.

Karnam Malleswari appointed as the first Vice Chancellor of Delhi Sports University

Karnam Malleshwari, the first Indian woman to win a medal at the Olympics, has been appointed the first vice-chancellor of the Delhi government's Delhi Sports University.

Malleshwari won a bronze medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. She has also been awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award and Padma Shri.

The Delhi assembly had passed a Bill for the establishment of this university in 2019, with the aim of offering graduate, postgraduate and doctorate degrees in a range of sports.

The intention of building a world-class sports university is not to generate jobs but to provide a space for individuals to finally build their athletic talent.

Jamsetji Tata on the first place in the list of the world's biggest donors

According to a list prepared by EdelGive Foundation and Hurun Report, Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata, the founder of Tata Group has emerged as the biggest philanthropist in the world over the last 100 years.

The first-ever list of Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropist of the Century puts Jamsetji Tata ahead of the likes of Bill and Melinda Gates, Warren Buffet, Henry Hughes and George Soros.

The report pegs the current valuation of India's pioneer industrialist Jamsetji Tata's donations at \$102.4 billion over the past century. He is followed by Bill and Melinda Gates (\$74.6 billion), Warren Buffett (\$37.4 billion), George Soros (\$34.8 billion) and J D Rockefeller (\$26.8 billion).

The highest number of people who made the list are from the United States (39), followed by the United Kingdom (5), China (3), India (2) and Portugal and Switzerland (1 each). Only 13 of the 50 philanthropists who have made the list are alive.

Pradeep Tiwana become the first Indian to be appointed a judge in Australia

Barrister Pardeep Singh Tiwana has become the first Indian to be appointed as a judge of the County Court of Victoria (Australia).

Earlier, Jalandhar's Palbinder Kaur Shergill had become the first Sikh turbaned baptised woman to be appointed as a Supreme Court Judge of Canada in 2017.

He did his barrister study from the bar school of Lincoln's Inn and was the youngest applicant to get a law degree as a barrister.

Tiwana has two scholarships from bar school and applied in 1993 as a 23-year-old youth. He practiced till 2006 there, before moving to Australia.

After doing a 3-month law course from Melbourne university, he started practicing there as a criminal lawyer in 2006.

India Smart Cities Award Contest 2020

Uttar Pradesh has been ranked as top performing state under the Smart Cities Mission's India Smart Cities Award Contest 2020.

Madhya Pradesh comes second on the list while Tamil Nadu grabbed the third position. Surat and Indore bagged the best award for their overall performance in 2020.

Indore and Surat won the City Award jointly this year for their overall development and Uttar Pradesh won the state award.

The top 9 performing cities which have been awarded 4 star rating are Surat, Indore, Ahmedabad, Pune, Vijayawada, Rajkot,

Visakhapatnam, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Vadodara.

These awards were announced on June 25 to mark six years of the three urban missions of the Central government - Smart Cities Mission, Atal Mission for Urban Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban.

Suresh N. Patel appointed as acting CVC in the Central Vigilance Commission

Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N. Patel has been appointed as the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) in the Central Vigilance Commission.

The appointment was necessitated after Sanjay Kothari completed his term as the chief of the probity watchdog on June 23.

Mr. Kothari had joined the commission in April last year. The commission is headed by the CVC and can have a maximum of two vigilance commissioners.

There is a vacancy of one more vigilance commissioner, in addition to Mr. Patel, in the commission.

The Personnel Ministry has already called for applications for the posts of CVC and a vigilance commissioner.

Hockey India nominates Sreejesh and Deepika for Khel Ratna

India men's goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and former women's defender Deepika Thakur were named Hockey India's nominations for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

PR Sreejesh had played a significant role in India's Gold Medal win at the FIH Men's Series Finals Bhubaneswar Odisha 2019.

He had also played a key part in India getting a silver at the Hockey Champions Trophy Breda 2018 and bronze at the 2018 Asian Games.

The Indian goalkeeper had received the prestigious Padma Shri Award in 2017. He had also received the Arjuna Award in 2015.

Deepika has also been a vital part of the Indian women's hockey team, which had won silver at the 2018 Asian Games and at the Asian Champions Trophy 2018.

Among the Arjuna award nominees, Harmanpreet Singh has over 100 international caps and Vandana Katariya has over 200 international caps and Navjot Kaur has over 150 international caps.

All three players have been nominated for the Arjuna award for their sensational performances in Indian teams' victories in the last few years.

KK Venugopal's tenure as Attorney General extended by another year

The Government of India has extended the tenure of KK Venugopal as the Attorney General for India by one more year.

In 2020 too, his tenure had been extended by one year. Venugopal's current tenure ends in the next couple of days.

Venugopal is 89-years-old. Appointed as AG on 1 July 2017 for a three-year term, he took over as the 15th Attorney General of India after former AG Mukul Rohatgi resigned citing personal reasons.

Rahi Sarnobat won gold medal in women's 25m pistol event

Rahi Sarnobat won gold medal in women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF shooting World Cup. The silver went to France's Mathilde Lamolle, who scored 31 in the final.

Sarnobat's gold is India's first in the ongoing edition after the country secured one silver and two bronze medals earlier in the tournament.

The 30-year-old Sarnobat fired a final score of 39 after qualifying second with a total of 591. Her stupendous performance in the final included perfect scores in the third, fourth, fifth and the sixth series.

In the qualification, Sarnobat fired a brilliant 296 in the rapid fire round on Monday. Her precision score was an equally impressive 295.

Bhaker recorded a total of 588 to qualify third after firing a 296 in the rapid-fire round on Monday following an impressive 292 in the precision round.

P. Sainath selected as one of the three recipients of Fukuoka Prize 2021

Palagummi Sainath, a noted journalist has been selected as one of the three recipients of the Fukuoka Prize for 2021.

The Fukuoka Prize is given annually to distinguished people to foster and increase awareness of Asian cultures, and to create a broad framework of exchange and mutual learning among the Asian people.

The Grand Prize has earlier been awarded to Muhammad Yunus from Bangladesh, historian Romila Thapar, and sarod maestro Amjad Ali

Khan. Eleven Indians have received the Fukuoka Prize so far.

115 people from 28 countries and areas have received the Prize in the past 30 years. The Prize was established in 1990.

Palagummi Sainath is an Indian journalist and author of the book Everybody Loves a Good Drought. He has been actively campaigning, throughout his career, over the issues leading up to the farmers' agitations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Index of Eight Core Industries for April, 2021

The Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is releasing Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) for the Month of April, 2021.

ICI measures combined and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.

The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

ICI measures combined and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.

The combined ICI stood at 126.7 in April 2021, which increased by 56.1 per cent (provisional) as compared to the Index of April 2020.

This high growth rate in April 2021 is largely due to low Index base in April 2020 consequent to the low industrial production across all sectors caused by nationwide lockdown imposed to contain spread of Covid-19 last year.

The growth rate of ICI during April-March 2020-21 was (-) 6.5% (P) as compared to the corresponding period of last FY.

Government gave approval to four firms under PLI scheme for bulk drugs

The government of India gave approval to four waitlisted firms under the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs.

The department of pharmaceuticals had launched the PLI scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical bulk drugs - Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/ Drug Intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs).

It envisages setting up greenfield plants in four different target segments with a total outlay of Rs 6,940 crore for the period 2020-21 to 2029-30.

Setting up of these plants will make the country self-reliant to a large extent in respect of these Bulk drugs. The disbursement of production linked incentive by the Government over the six years period would be up to a maximum of about Rs.6,000 cr.

Second list of 108 Military items under Self-Reliance & Defence Exports

Ministry of Defence recently notified the 'second List' to boost indigenisation in the Defence sector. It has approved a proposal of the Department of Military Affairs, Ministry of

Defence (MoD) to notify the 'Second Positive Indigenisation List' of 108 items.

The notification comes right after the 'First Positive Indigenisation' List comprising 101 military items which was notified in August 2020.

This will give further boost to indigenisation with active participation of public and private sector for fulfilling the twin objectives of achieving self-reliance and promoting defence exports.

All the 108 items will now be procured from indigenous sources as per provisions given in Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

The second list (enclosed) lays special focus on weapons/systems which are currently under development/trials and are likely to translate into firm orders in the future.

The 'Second Positive Indigenisation List' comprises complex systems, sensors, simulator, weapons and ammunitions like Helicopters, Next Generation Corvettes, Air Borne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) systems, Tank Engines, Medium Power Radar for Mountains, MRSAM Weapon Systems etc.

This second list is planned to be implemented progressively with effect from December 2021 to December 2025.

India's GDP shrank by 7.3% in 2020-21

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted 7.3% in 2020-21, as per provisional National Income estimates released by the National Statistical Office.

It marginally better than the 8% contraction in the economy projected earlier. GDP growth in

2019-20, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, was 4%.

The Gross Value Added (GVA) in the economy shrank 6.2% in 2020-21, compared to a 4.1% rise in the previous year.

Only two sectors bucked the trend of negative GVA growth — agriculture, forestry and fishing, which rose 3.6%, and electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services (up 1.9%).

GVA for trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting-related services saw the sharpest decline of 18.2%, followed by construction (-8.6%), mining and quarrying (-8.5%) and manufacturing (-7.2%).

GDP had contracted 24.4% in April-June 2020, followed by a 7.4% shrinkage in the second quarter. It had returned to positive territory in the September to December quarter with a marginal 0.5% growth.

Operational guidelines for Production Linked Incentive Scheme of Pharmaceuticals

The Department of Pharmaceuticals notified the 'Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Pharmaceuticals' with an aim to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities by increasing investment and production in the sector and to contribute to product diversification to high value goods in the pharmaceutical sector

The approved outlay of the scheme is Rs 15000 crore. The scheme envisages to create global champions out of India who have the potential to grow in size and scale using cutting edge technology and thereby penetrate the global value chains.

Based on a series of consultations with pharmaceutical industry and stakeholders in the Government, the operational guidelines for the scheme have been prepared and issued on 1st June.

The applications are invited in three groups based on the Global Manufacturing Revenue of FY 2019-20 of the applicants. A special carve out for MSMEs has been kept under the scheme.

All the applications will be submitted through an online portal maintained by SIDBI, the Project Management Agency for the scheme.

The eligible products have been categorized into three categories. The products covered under the scheme are formulations, biopharmaceuticals, active pharmaceutical ingredients, key starting material, drug intermediates, in-vitro diagnostic medical devices, etc.

The category-1 and category-2 products attract 10% incentive and category-3 products attract 5% incentive on the incremental sales. Incremental sales of a product mean sales of that product in a year over and above the sales of that product in FY 2019-2020.

Operational guidelines for PLI Scheme for telecom & networking equipment

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) notified the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme with the objective to boost domestic manufacturing, investments and export in the telecom and networking products.

The PLI Scheme will be implemented within the overall financial limits of Rs 12,195 crore for implementation of the Scheme over a period of

five years. For MSME category, financial allocation will be Rs 1,000 crore.

The objective of this PLI scheme is to make India a global manufacturing hub for telecom and networking products by boosting domestic manufacturing, investments and exports in the sector.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been appointed as the Project Management Agency (PMA) for the PLI scheme.

The scheme will be effective from 1st April, 2021. The support under the Scheme shall be provided for a period of five (5) years, i.e. from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26.

The PLI Scheme will be implemented within the overall financial limits of ₹ 12,195 Crores only over a period of 5 years. For MSME category, financial allocation will be ₹1000 Crores. The scheme will be effective from 1st April, 2021. The support under the Scheme shall be provided for a period of five (5) years, i.e. from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26.

The PLI Scheme will be implemented within the overall financial limits of ₹ 12,195 Crores only over a period of 5 years. For MSME category, financial allocation will be ₹1000 Crores.

Financial inclusion is a top priority for government

According to the Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur statement, financial inclusion is a top priority for the government and that promoting financial education would help in realising the collective potential.

He was speaking at a virtual event to launch six modules of short films of Investor Education &

Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) titled 'Hisaab Ki Kitaab'.

IEPFA comes under the corporate affairs ministry. The mandate of IEPFA is to build investor awareness among various stakeholders in the rural and urban areas.

Due to the digital global community, the urban-rural divide in India is blurring. Yet the behaviour change in the rural populace with respect to investment and long term financial planning needs to be triggered.

There are 6 short films/ modules of 5 minutes duration each highlighting the importance of budget, saving, importance of Insurance schemes, various social security schemes of the government etc. thus promoting Financial literacy.

Rules for white goods PLI scheme

The guidelines for Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has been notified by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) for white goods such as air conditioners and LED lights manufacturers in India worth ₹6238 crore.

The objective of the scheme is to create complete component ecosystem in India and make India an integral part of the global supply chains.

With due consultations with industry and other stakeholders, DPIIT issued detailed Scheme Guidelines for effective operation and smooth implementation of the Scheme.

The Scheme is expected to attract global investments, enhance manufacturing and generate large scale employment opportunities.

The PLI Scheme will be implemented within the overall financial limits of Rs. 6,238 Crores over a period of 5 years during FY 2021-22 to FY 2028-29.

An entity availing benefits under any other PLI Scheme of Govt. India will not be eligible under this scheme for the same products but the entity may take benefits under other applicable schemes of Govt. of India or schemes of State governments.

The Scheme will be implemented as a pan India scheme and is not specific to any location, area or segment of population. A number of global and domestic companies, including a number of MSMEs are likely to benefit from the Scheme.

Kerala launched Knowledge Economy Mission to boost job prospects

The State government of Kerala launched the Knowledge Economy Mission to bring the ongoing efforts to provide employment to the educated and support 'knowledge workers' under a single programme.

The APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University had set up the Kerala Digital Work Force Management System that registered over 27,000 job aspirants thus far.

Considered a sub-mission of the Kudumbasree Mission, the project entailed training its workers as well as executives of K-DISC and Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP).

Providing impetus to such efforts, the allocation for the 'knowledge economy fund' meant for skill promotion, technological transformation, and strengthening of higher education system had been hiked from ₹200 crore to ₹300 crore.

The ICT Academy also set up a system to evaluate the profiles of educated unemployed youth, provide them with career counselling, and enrol them in micro-training programmes.

While recruitment portal 'Monster' had been cooperating with the government's Kerala Knowledge Mission for providing employment, freelance marketing network 'Freelancer.com' also expressed their interest.

World Bank approved \$500 mn program to help boost India's MSME sector

The World Bank recently approved a USD 500 million program to support India's nationwide initiative to revitalise the MSME sector, which has been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

The USD 500 million Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Performance (RAMP) Program is the World Bank's second intervention in this sector.

The first being the USD 750 million MSME Emergency Response Program, approved in July 2020 to address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of millions of viable MSMEs severely impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The programme targets improvements in the performance of 5.5 lakh MSMEs and is expected to mobilise financing of USD 15.5 billion, as part of the government's USD 3.4 billion MSME Competitiveness - A Post-COVID Resilience and Recovery Programme (MCRRP).

The RAMP program will provide better access to finance and working capital for MSMEs by strengthening the receivable financing markets.

India commences export of 16 varieties of mangoes to Bahrain

Sixteen varieties of mangoes, including three GI certified Khirsapati and Lakshmanbhog (West Bengal), Zardalu (Bihar) are being exported to Bahrain in a significant boost to mango exports potential from the eastern region.

APEDA has been initiating measures to boost mango exports from non-traditional regions and states. APEDA has been conducting a virtual buyer-seller meet and festival to promote mango exports.

Mango in India is also referred as 'king of fruits' and referred as Kalpavriksha (wish granting tree) in ancient scriptures.

While most of the states in India have mango plantations, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh followed by Telangana, Karnataka and Bihar have major share in total production of the fruit.

Alphonso, Kesar, Totapuri and Banganpalli are leading export varieties from India. Mango exports primarily take place in three forms: fresh mango, mango pulp, and mango slice.

For the first time this season, India has shipped a consignment of 2.5 Metric Tonne (MTs) of Geographical Indication (GI) certified Banganapalli and other variety Survarnakha mangoes sourced from farmers in Krishna and Chittoor districts of Andhra Pradesh to South Korea.

India exports 24 metric tonne of groundnuts to Nepal

A consignment of 24 metric tonnes (MT) of groundnuts was exported to Nepal from West Bengal by opening a window of possibilities of

boosting groundnut exports from the eastern region.

According to the third advance estimates of oilseeds production by the ministry of agriculture and farmer welfare, the groundnut production in 2020-21 is estimated at 101.19 lakh tonne against 99.52 lakh tonne estimated in 2019-20.

Gujarat is the largest producer of groundnuts in the country, which is followed by Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Rajasthan.

The crop is grown in both Kharif and Rabi seasons. The Kharif season has a share of more than 75% of the total production.

Traditionally, Gujarat and Rajasthan have a major share in groundnut exports. The groundnut exports from West Bengal would boost exports potential of the crop from the eastern region.

Increase in MSP for Kharif crops for marketing season 2020-21

The Cabinet Committee has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Kharif crops for marketing season 2020-21.

Government has increased the MSP of Kharif crops for marketing season 2020-21, to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce.

The highest increase in MSP is proposed for nigerseed (Rs 755 per quintal) followed by sesamum (Rs 370 per quintal), urad (Rs 300 per quintal) and cotton (long staple) (Rs 275 per

quintal). The differential remuneration is aimed at encouraging crop diversification.

The increase in MSP for Kharif Crops for marketing season 2020-21 is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average Cost of Production (CoP), aiming at reasonably fair remuneration for the farmers.

The expected returns to farmers over their cost of production are estimated to be highest in case of Bajra (83%) followed by urad (64%), tur (58%) and maize (53%). For rest of the crops, return to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be at least 50%.

India's Forex reserves cross \$600 billion for first time

The forex reserves of India crossed the \$600-billion mark for the first time on the back of continued foreign investment flow into the capital markets.

India is now less than \$200 million behind Russia, which has an almost identical level of reserves.

The pile-up of foreign exchange reserves is an outcome of the RBI's strategy of buying dollars when there is a sudden spurt of inflows, which causes volatility in the forex markets.

In FY20, the RBI added over \$100 billion to the reserves. It has also sold dollars when the rupee came under pressure. In February and March, the central bank had depleted its stockpile by almost \$10 billion by selling dollars.

China has the highest Forex reserves with \$3,399.9 billion of U.S. dollars. At that time

India's rank is 8th after Japan, Switzerland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

SBI launched 'Kavach' personal loans for Covid-stressed customers

State Bank of India (SBI) recently launched a new loan offering 'Kavach Personal Loan' to provide relief to its customers who are facing financial challenges due to covid related treatment costs.

Kavach Personal Loan is a collateral-free offering by SBI, under which a maximum of Rs 5 lakh loan can be availed at 8.5 per cent per annum for a period of 5 years.

This unique product is being offered under the collateral-free personal loan category and comes at the cheapest rate of interest under this segment.

This loan scheme by SBI will be under the Covid loan book that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had asked banks to create to provide relief to individuals and institutions affected due to covid.

RBI had created a Rs 50,000 crore liquidity window, under which banks were encouraged to borrow at the repo rate from RBI and lend to institutions to strengthen medical infrastructure.

Large banks, with ample liquidity, also have been permitted to use their own liquidity to lend to individuals and institutions under the Covid loan book.

India's agriculture exports registers increase of 17.34% in 2020-21

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, exports of agriculture and allied products jumped to 41.25 billion US dollars and registered an increase of 17.34 per cent during the fiscal year 2020-21.

Exports of agriculture and allied products including marine and plantation products jumped to 41.25 billion US dollars and registered an increase of 17.34 per cent during the fiscal year 2020-21.

Huge growth has been witnessed in export of cereals like non-basmati rice, wheat, millets, maize and other agricultural products.

The products were exported to 58 destinations around the world. Largest markets for country's agricultural products are the USA, China, Bangladesh, UAE, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nepal, Iran and Malaysia. Highest growth in export has been recorded for Indonesia, Bangladesh and Nepal.

GI certified Zardalu mangoes exported to the United Kingdom

Giving a possible boost to the potential of farm exports from the eastern region, India exported the first commercial consignment of Geographical Indications (GI) certified 'Jardalu' mangoes from Bhagalpur, Bihar, to the United Kingdom.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, APEDA, in collaboration with Bihar government, Indian High Commission and Invest India, exported juicy and aromatic mangoes which were packed and treated at APEDA packhouse in Lucknow.

APEDA has been initiating measures to boost mango exports from the non-traditional regions.

APEDA has been conducting virtual buyer-seller meets and festivals to promote mango exports. APEDA recently organised a mango festival in Berlin, Germany as well as in Japan in collaboration with Indian embassies.

Centre Simplifies Registration Process for MSMEs

The Ministry for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises recently announced simplification of process for registration of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises where now only PAN and Aadhaar will be required for registration of MSMEs.

In order to boost the economic activities of MSMEs, the Government had announced a special incentive package of 20 lakh crore rupees under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

The MSMEs contribute significantly in the economic and social development of the country by fostering entrepreneurship and generating large employment opportunities.

With an objective of making India a global economic powerhouse, vision of MSME aims towards building a supporting ecosystem for MSMEs to enhance their contribution towards five trillion dollar economy.

GI certified Jalgaon banana has been exported to Dubai

A consignment of fibre and mineral-rich Jalgaon banana has been exported to Dubai, in a major boost to exports of Geographical Indications (GI) certified agricultural produce.

The twenty-two metric tonnes of GI-certified Jalgaon banana were sourced from progressive farmers of Tandalwadi village, part of Jalgaon district of Maharashtra, a banana cluster identified under the Agri Export Policy.

In 2016, Jalgaon Banana got GI certification, which was registered with Nisargraja Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Jalgaon.

India's banana export has been rising sharply because of the adoption of farm practices as per global standards.

India is the world's leading producer of bananas with a share of around 25 per cent in total output. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh contribute more than 70 per cent of the country's banana production.

ADB Bank to provide a USD 484 million loan to improve transport connectivity

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced to provide a USD 484 million loan to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.

The CKIC is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC), which stretches from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu and connects India to the production networks of South, Southeast, and East Asia. ADB is the lead partner of the Indian government in developing ECEC.

The funding will be used for a project to upgrade about 590 kilometers of state highways in the CKIC influence areas, covering 23 of the 32 districts between Chennai and Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu.

Seven-year contracts are provided for long-term maintenance of road projects. Climate change adaptation measures will be incorporated in highway upgrades.

Line of Credit agreement between India and Sri Lanka in Solar Energy Sector

India extended a line of credit (LOC) of \$100 million to Sri Lanka through the Exim Bank for financing projects in the solar energy sector in Sri Lanka.

The LOC will help finance various projects in the solar energy sector in Sri Lanka including those announced during the founding conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held in March 2018, such as rooftop solar photovoltaic systems for households and government buildings.

89 countries including Sri Lanka have signed the framework agreement of ISA which was jointly launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former French president Francois Hollande in November 2015.

ISA aims to bring together countries to promote large-scale deployment of solar energy and overcome challenges related to technology, finance and capacity.

Over the past seven years, solar power generation in India has increased to 34.6 GW in 2021 from about 2.6 GW in March 2014. The National Solar Mission of India aims to increase it further to 100 GW and beyond.

Ministry of Tourism released 3 draft strategies to boost the tourism sector

The Ministry of Tourism released three draft strategies with roadmaps to promote India as a rural and medical tourism destination and to position it as a place for conferences, meetings and exhibitions.

The Draft National Strategy and Roadmap for Development of Rural Tourism in India seeks to develop and promote local products through

tourism to generate income and jobs in rural areas and empower local communities.

The second proposal – Draft National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism – seeks to promote India as an accessible and affordable destination for medical treatments and wellness courses.

The national strategy aims at providing an institutional framework strengthening the ecosystem for medical and wellness tourism, developing a brand and ensuring quality assurance.

India secured Fifth rank in foreign direct investments (FDI) in 2020

India received USD 64 billion in Foreign Direct Investment in 2020, the fifth largest recipient of inflows in the world, according to a UN report.

Global FDI flows have been severely hit by the pandemic and they plunged by 35 per cent in 2020 to USD 1 trillion from USD 1.5 trillion the previous year.

Lockdowns caused by COVID-19 around the world slowed down existing investment projects, and prospects of a recession led multinational enterprises (MNEs) to reassess new projects.

The pandemic boosted demand for digital infrastructure and services globally. This led to higher values of greenfield FDI project announcements targeting the ICT industry, rising by more than 22 per cent to USD 81 billion.

Major project announcements in the ICT industry included a USD 2.8 billion investment by online retail giant Amazon in ICT infrastructure in India.

The report noted that the second wave of the COVID-19 outbreak in India weighs heavily on the country's overall economic activities.

Samsung shifts display manufacturing unit from China to UP's Noida

Samsung has completed the construction of the display manufacturing unit that is shifted from China to Noida in Uttar Pradesh.

The delegation mentioned that the construction work displays the commitment towards India and to make Uttar Pradesh a manufacturing hub.

During the meeting with the delegation, the chief minister said that Samsung's Noida factory is a classic example of success of the 'Make in India' programme, and added that this will help the youth of the state to get employment in the state.

Adityanath assured the delegation that the state government will continue to extend help to the Samsung company in future as well.

Exotic dragon fruit from Maharashtra exported to Dubai

A consignment of fibre and mineral rich 'Dragon Fruit', also referred as Kamalam, has been exported to Dubai from Tadasar village, Sangli district, Maharashtra.

Scientifically referred to as *Hylocereus undatus*, the dragon fruit is grown in countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, the USA and Vietnam.

Dragon fruit production commenced in India in early 1990s and was grown as home gardens.

Dragon Fruit has become increasingly popular in recent years in the country as it has been taken

up for cultivation by farmers across various states.

At present, dragon fruit is grown mostly in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The cultivation requires less water and can be grown in various kinds of soils. There are three main varieties of dragon fruit: white flesh with pink skin, red flesh with pink skin, and white flesh with yellow skin.

APEDA facilitated exports of Burmese grapes 'Leteku' to Dubai

A shipment of fresh Burmese grapes referred as 'Leteku' in Assamese language has been exported to Dubai from Guwahati by air route, in a major boost to harness the export potential of agricultural and processed food products from north-eastern states

A consignment of Leteku, which contains vitamin C and Iron, was sourced and packed at a collection centre in Darang district of Assam. Consignment was exported by APEDA registered Kiega EXIM Pvt Ltd from Guwahati airport to Dubai via Delhi.

Recently, APEDA facilitated exports of the first consignment of 'red rice' to the USA from Assam. Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer. The rice variety is referred to as 'Bao-dhaan', which is an integral part of Assamese food.

APEDA assisted in exports of Geographical Indications (GI) certified KajiNemu (Assam lemon) to London. So far around 40 metric tonnes of Assam Lemon has been exported.

GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER

MANAGEMENT

Declining forest bird species in Western Himalaya

The study identified the declining forest bird species in Western Himalayas and found that while the forest interior harbors a large number of endemic bird species, all landscapes showed a drastic loss of bird species diversity. With the loss of natural habitats in the region, dispersal corridors between those habitats need to be restored to ensure their survival.

Six major land-use types which included natural oak forest, degraded oak forest (lightly used), lopped oak forest (intensively used), pine forest, agricultural cultivation area and sites with buildings were studied.

The results showed that there was a low diversity of species in monoculture areas and urban sites.

It also noticed strong decline in some of the habitat guilds in the areas that experienced land-use change. Habitat guilds are groups of bird species that have common habitat preferences.

Litoria mira, the real life version of chocolate frog found

In the rainforests of New Guinea, a species of frog lives that looks like it has been made of chocolate. First spotted by an Australian scientist, Steve Richards, in 2016, noted that this frog could be a new species and is being considered as an addition to the knowns of the animal kingdom.

Some specimens have been taken for genetic tests and research on the cocoa-coloured frogs. The frogs are now called *Litoria mira* and the name has been inspired by the Latin adjective *mirum*.

Mirum means surprised or strange and the name fits perfectly for the new species of frog that have surprised scientists.

The frog species are considered a member of the predominantly Australian *Litoria* genus of tree frogs.

The *Litoria mira* has a well-known relative — the common green tree frog of Australia called *Litoria cerulean*. Except for the colour of their skins, the two seem alike — until you study them closely.

Litoria mira can be distinguished from all other *Litoria* by its unique combination of moderately large size, webbing on hand, relatively short and robust limbs, and small violet patch of skin on the edge of its eyes.

Monsoon Rainfall likely to be 101% of Long Period Average

National Weather Forecasting Centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that the Southwest monsoon seasonal (June to September) rainfall over the country as a whole is most likely to be normal (96 to 104 % of Long Period Average (LPA)).

Quantitatively, the monsoon seasonal (June to September) rainfall over the country as a whole is likely to be 101% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of $\pm 4\%$.

The LPA of the season rainfall over the country as a whole for the period 1961-2010 is 88 cm.

The southwest monsoon seasonal (June to September) rainfall over the four homogeneous rainfall is most likely to be Normal over Northwest India (92-108%) and South Peninsula (93-107%).

Seasonal rainfall is most likely to be below normal over North east India (<95%) and above normal over Central India (>106%).

The southwest monsoon seasonal (June to September) rainfall over the monsoon core zone, which consists of most of the rainfed agriculture regions in the country is most likely to be Above Normal (>106% of LPA).

IMD maintains five rainfall distribution categories on an all-India scale which are –

- Excess: If the rainfall is more than 110 % of this LPA.
- Above Normal: If the rainfall is between 104 and 110 % of this LPA.
- Normal: If the rainfall is between 96 and 104 % of this LPA.
- Below Normal: If the rainfall is between 90 and 96 % of this LPA.
- Deficient: If the rainfall is less than 90 % of this LPA.

41 cities testing cycling friendly initiatives in India

The India Cycles4Change challenge is beginning to gain momentum in Indian cities. The challenge was launched last year under the Smart Cities Mission by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on 25th June, 2020, as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic that was gaining ground in the country.

Over the last year, a cycling revolution has taken over India, with cycling being seen as an

important mode of safe and healthy personal transport medium that ensures social distancing, while being environmentally sustainable.

As the COVID-19 pandemic was making inroads across the country, cycling saw a huge rise in demand.

The lockdown restrictions had significantly affected the commuters of public transport, who saw cycling as a personal and COVID-safe alternative for short and medium distance commute.

Moreover, cycling was also seen as a means of staying healthy- physically and mentally by the people who were confined to their homes.

With the launch of India Cycle4Change challenge, 107 cities registered to be a part of the cycling revolution and 41 cities undertook initiatives vis. surveys, discussions, pop-up cycle lanes, safer neighbourhoods, open street events, cycle rallies, or online campaigns that were aimed at creating a cycle friendly city.

The Smart Cities Mission, in association with Institute for Transport and Development Policy (ITDP) conducted training modules and other capacity building initiatives to guide 107 cities on various cycling initiatives.

HDFC Bank to become carbon neutral by 2031-32

Private sector lender HDFC Bank recently announced its plans to become carbon-neutral by 2031-32.

Carbon neutrality generally refers to achieving net-zero carbon dioxide emissions (referred to as personal, organizational, or national carbon neutrality).

This can be done by balancing emissions of carbon dioxide with its removal (often through carbon offsetting) or by eliminating emissions from society (the transition to the "post-carbon economy").

The bank has a three-pronged strategy to achieve its objective to become carbon neutral- reduce consumption, transition to renewable energy, and offset carbon footprint.

The bank is looking at reducing its emissions, energy, and water consumption. It will continue to incorporate and scale up the use of renewable energy in its operations.

As part of its ESG (environmental, social, and corporate governance) strategy, the bank will also focus on offering loans for green products like electric vehicles at lower interest rates and incorporating ESG scores in its credit decisions.

In China's Jiangsu province, the first human case of H10N3 bird flu reported

In China's eastern province of Jiangsu has been confirmed as the first human case of infection with a rare strain of bird flu known as H10N3.

Many different strains of bird flu are present in China and some sporadically infect people, usually those working with poultry. There is no indication that H10N3 can spread easily in humans.

Influenza A virus subtype H10N3 is a subtype of viruses that causes influenza (flu). It is mostly present in wild avian species. The first human case was reported in 2021.

H10N3 has been isolated across a wide geographic distribution, including in species such

as domestic poultry (chickens), ducks, other waterfowl, and terrestrial birds.

In animals, the viruses display a complex pathology, with complex reassortments and mutations contributing to pathobiology patterns in chickens, ducks and mice indicative of a possible threat to humans, although H10N3 is usually a less severe strain and is unlikely to cause a significant outbreak.

Clean energy innovation to accelerate achieving the Paris Agreement Goals

About 23 countries government have collectively launched bold new plans to catalyze action and spearhead a decade of innovation to drive global investment in clean energy research, development and demonstrations.

The goal is to make clean energy affordable, attractive and accessible for all this decade, to accelerate action towards the Paris Agreement and net zero pathways.

These countries are Austria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the European Commission (on behalf of the European Union).

Mission Innovation 2.0 is the second phase of the global Mission Innovation initiative, launched alongside the Paris Agreement at the 2015 COP21 conference.

Its members – collectively responsible for over 90% of global public investment in clean energy innovation – are committed to increase investment and collaboration to deliver the

technologies needed to overcome the world's most difficult climate challenges.

Achieving the Paris Agreement goals of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels, requires huge leaps in energy innovation this decade.

Half of the global emissions reductions required to achieve national and global climate targets by 2050 depend on technologies that exist today, but are only at demonstration or prototype phase.

These technologies are not yet sufficiently effective or affordable to be deployed at scale, such as clean hydrogen, advanced battery storage or zero emission fuels.

WHO joins the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

World Health Organization (WHO) on 5 June 2021, joined the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a partnership aimed at preventing, halting and reversing the degradation of our ecosystems and the diversity of life they sustain.

Along with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), WHO has joined the partnership as a collaborating agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and a large number of partners.

Ecosystem restoration can significantly contribute to supporting health and well-being by helping to regulate infectious diseases, supporting food and nutrition security, and contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation.

Restoration also reduces the risk of disasters, while supporting livelihoods and healthy societies.

Safeguarding and restoring ecosystems globally will contribute to long-term social wellbeing and ecological resilience, while boosting green recovery efforts from the pandemic.

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is part of a series of collaborative efforts led by WHO that seek to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration and engagement at the human, animal, plant and ecosystem interface, also known as One Health.

Blue-finned Mahseer out of IUCN red list

International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) red listed of endangered species, Blue-Finned Mahseer has now moved to the 'least concern' status.

The group is involved in conservation of the blue-finned and golden mahseer for 50 years in Lonavala. However, the golden mahseer is still in danger of going extinct.

Around five lakh mahseer are bred at the Walvan Hatchery in Lonavala, where an artificial lake has been created.

It is here that the Blue-Finned and Golden species of Mahseer congregate. Once the eggs hatch, they remain in the lake for 4-6 months.

They are then handed over to various fisheries departments across the country, who in turn introduce them into lakes and rivers in their states.

NTPC signs up UN's CEO Water Mandate to step up work on water conservation

National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC Ltd) has become a signatory to the

prestigious United Nations Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate.

The CEO Water Mandate is a UN Global Compact initiative to demonstrate commitment and efforts of companies to better their water and sanitation agenda as part of long term Sustainable Development Goals.

It is designed to assist companies in the development, implementation, and disclosure of

NTPC is India's largest power utility under Ministry of Power. Power Ministry has said that NTPC has already taken a series of measures across its plant locations on sound water management.

It has said that NTPC will further imbibe the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) for water conservation and management while carrying out its core business activity of power generation.

UNEP praises a sand art made by Sudarsan Pattnaik

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has praised renowned artist Sudarsan Pattnaik's a sand art on Odisha's Puri beach to celebrate World Environment Day.

Pattnaik created an 8 foot by 13 foot sculpture with seven tonnes of sand, giving a message that people can lead a healthy life in a safe environment.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is responsible for coordinating responses to environmental issues within the United Nations system.

UNEP was established by Maurice Strong, its first director, after the United Nations Conference on

the Human Environment in Stockholm in June 1972.

Its mandate is to provide leadership, deliver science and develop solutions on a wide range of issues, including climate change, the management of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and green economic development.

"Largest Green Railways" in the world with Zero Carbon Emission

Indian Railways is working in mission mode to become the largest Green Railways in the world and is moving towards becoming a "net zero carbon emitter" before 2030.

Railways is guided by a holistic vision of being an environment friendly, efficient, cost effective, punctual and a modern carrier of passengers as well as freight in order to serve the growing needs of New India.

Railway Electrification which is environment friendly and reduces pollution, has increased nearly ten times since 2014. Railways has planned to electrify balance Broad Gauge (BG) routes by December, 2023 to achieve 100% electrification of BG routes.

19 Railway Stations have also achieved Green Certification including 3 Platinum, 6 Gold and 6 Silver ratings. 27 Railway Buildings, Offices, Campuses and other establishments are also Green certified.

Green certification mainly covers assessment of parameters having direct bearing on the environment, such as, energy conservation measures, use of renewable energy, Green House Gas emission reduction, water conservation, waste management, material conservation, recycling etc.

Raimona reserve forest named sixth national park in Assam

The Chief Minister of Assam announced that the Raimona reserve forest in Kokrajhar district under the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), bordering Bhutan, has been upgraded as the sixth national park of the state.

The other five national parks in the state are Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.

The Raimona National Park, which is within the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), is part of a contiguous forest patch with an area of 422 square kilometres, covering the northern part of the notified Ripu Reserve Forest along the Indo-Bhutan border.

It is home to golden langur, Asian elephants, tigers, clouded leopards, Indian gaur, wild buffalo, spotted deer, hornbill, more than 150 species of butterflies, 170 species of birds and 380 varieties of plants and orchids.

State of India's Environment 2021, report

The "State of India's Environment 2021," report released by the Centre for Science and Environment, said 2,03,000 kg of COVID-19 biomedical waste was produced daily in May this year and it was roughly 33% of India's non-COVID biomedical waste.

As per Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016, Bio-medical waste is required to be segregated in 4 colour coded waste categories, and the same is treated and disposed as per the methods prescribed under Schedule I of the Rules.

Common methods of treatment and disposal of bio-medical waste are by

- Incineration/plasma pyrolysis/deep-burial for Yellow Category waste;
- Autoclaving/microwaving/chemical disinfection for Red Category waste;
- Sterilization and shredding, disinfection followed by burial in concrete pit/recycling through foundry/encapsulation for White Category sharps waste; and
- Washing, disinfection followed by recycling for Blue Category glass waste.

New product category of Green Room Air Conditioners

A new product category of Green Room Air Conditioners was launched on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). The launch event was organized in association with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The addition of Green Room Air Conditioners on GeM is another step towards sustainable public procurement (SPP).

Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) is a process by which public authorities seek to achieve the appropriate balance between the three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental - when procuring goods, services or works at all stages of the project.

In March 2018, the Ministry of Finance constituted a Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP).

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is supporting the Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) initiative of the Government

of India with initial focus on three prioritized product categories including paper, disinfectant and Green Room Air Conditioners.

CESL signed MoU with Ladakh to make the Union Territory carbon neutral

Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) and the Administration of Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to make it a clean and green UT.

Under the MoU, various clean energy and energy efficiency programmes will be implemented such as solar mini and micro grid solutions, energy efficient lighting, energy storage-based solutions, efficient cooking stoves and electric mobility solutions in the UT.

PM Modi, in his Independence Day speech of 2020, said that the Ladakh, Leh and Kargil region will be developed and declared to be a carbon neutral region, a first in the country.

While the concept of carbon neutral villages have been considered in India in the past and some villages in Kerala and Manipur have adopted it, this will be the first large region to be carbon neutral.

Rengma Nagas demand autonomous district council

The Rengma Nagas in Assam are demanding an autonomous district council amid a decision by the Central and the State governments to upgrade the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) into a territorial council.

Rengma is a Naga tribe found in Nagaland and Assam states of India.

According to the 2011 Population Census of India, Rengma population stands at 62,951.

The harvest festival of the Rengmas is called Ngada. It is an eight-day Ngada festival that marks the end of the agricultural season. Ngadah is celebrated just after the harvest, towards the end of November.

India to install 20 GW of wind energy capacity by 2025

According to the India wind energy market outlook released by Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), India will install 20 GW of wind energy capacity over 2021-25.

Wind power generation capacity in India has increased in recent times. India's total installed wind power capacity was 38 GW, as of February 2021.

It has fourth largest installed wind power capacity worldwide. Wind power capacity is spread across Southern, Western and Northern regions.

Cost of wind power is decreasing rapidly in India. Levelized tariff of wind power is Rs 2.43 per kWh in India in 2017 though, it increased to ₹2.77 per kWh in March 2021.

GWEC was established in 2005. It provides credible and representative forum for entire wind energy sector at international level.

Its mission is to ensure that, wind power is established as the leading energy sources in world, providing several environmental and economic benefits.

Two species of monals sighted together in Arunachal Pradesh

Two species of monal, a colour pheasant, were sighted together in Local wildlife enthusiasts in Upper Siang district of central Arunachal Pradesh.

While Himalayan monal (*Lophophorus impejanus*) is more widely distributed from Afghanistan to northeast India, the rarer Sclater's (*Lophophorus sclateri*) monal is found in southern China and northern Myanmar.

A trio of wildlife enthusiasts – Obang Mibang, Tajir Tamuk and Geyong Tayeng – led by Mt. Everest climber Kishon Tekseng and his team sighted the birds on Mount Eko Dumbing at 4,173 metres above mean sea level. The sighting was during an expedition in April.

A male Sclater's monal, listed as vulnerable by the International Union of Conservation of Nature was also sighted near Komji Lipik at an altitude of 2,850 metres.

A pair of male and female Himalayan monal was sighted at Bomeh at 3,700 metres above mean sea level.

Komji Lipik and Bomeh, also in Upper Siang district, are on the way to Mount Eko Dumbing, which is covered by snow for the most part of the year.

Over 200 Pakke Tiger Reserve workers may finally get their dues

Over 200 contingency workers of the Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh went on a strike over non-payment of wages, leaving the tiger reserve unguarded, state Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar.

The tiger reserve is located in Pakke-Kessang district, about 78 km from the state capital.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) provides the wages of the contingency staff of the tiger reserve periodically through the state government.

The workers' union has been seeking the release of their salaries for the past six months, the regularisation of the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF), an increase of wage which was last revised in 2018 to Rs 11,000 per month, and a monthly payout of salaries.

Towards the south and south-east, the sanctuary adjoins Nameri National Park of Assam. To the east lies the Pakke River and to the west, the park is bounded by the Bhareli or Kameng River.

Maharashtra proposed amendments for protection of 'heritage' trees

Maharashtra (Urban Areas) proposed amendments for Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1975 to bring in the concept of "heritage trees" which was approved by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet also green-lighted the formation of the Maharashtra Tree Authority, which will take all decisions regarding protection of trees.

It will have responsibility related to protection and conservation of trees, including "heritage trees".

Under the proposed amendment, a tree with an estimated age of 50 years or more shall be defined as a heritage tree.

It may belong to specific species, which will be notified from time to time. In addition to the age, the state climate change department (which will

be implementing the Tree Act), will also consider a tree's rarity, its botanical, historical, religious, mythological and cultural importance in defining a heritage tree.

The local Tree Authority will have to ensure tree census to be carried out every five years along with counting of heritage trees.

Fifth Ocean officially added to world map

On the World Oceans Day, National Geographic is adding a fifth ocean into the list, an ocean that has been unofficially recognized by scientists all over the world for many years now.

The original four oceans are separated from each other by land, but the Southern Ocean is separated by the Antarctic Circumpolar Current, or ACC for short. This fast moving current moves west to east around Antarctica and is colder and less salty than the neighboring ocean.

The Antarctic Circumpolar Current is the strongest current system in the world oceans and the only ocean current linking all major oceans: the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans.

Southern Ocean is now considered to be the second smallest ocean, with the Arctic Ocean being the smallest.

This fifth ocean was first recognized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 1999 and the U.S Boards on Geographic Names approved the name "Southern Ocean."

It was in 2000, that the idea and boundaries of this new ocean were proposed to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), but not all members of the IHO were in agreement with it.

First ever Solo Woman Motorcycle Expedition

Union Defence Minister recently flagged off the first ever Solo Woman Motorcycle Expedition by Ms Kanchan Ugursandi to Umling La Pass, Ladakh and back.

Umling La Pass, located at an altitude of 19,300ft, has overtaken Khardung La Pass to become the highest motorable road in the world.

The construction of this road has been achieved by the BRO (Border Road Organization) as part of "Project Himank"

Umling La Pass, stretching to a distance of almost 86km, connects Chisumle and Demchok villages. Both these villages lie in close proximity to the Indo-China border in the eastern sector.

15-metre tree discovered in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

A 15-meter-tall tree that belongs to the genus of the coffee family has recently been discovered from the Andaman Islands by a team of researchers from India and the Philippines.

The new species, *Pyrostria laljii*, is also the first record of the genus *Pyrostria* in India. Plants belonging to genus *Pyrostria* are usually found in Madagascar but the recently discovered species is new to science.

The tree is distinguished by a long stem with a whitish coating on the trunk, and oblong-obovate leaves with a cuneate base, and was first reported from South Andaman's Wandoor forest.

The other places in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands where the tree could be located are the

Tirur forest near the Jarawa Reserve Forest and the Chidia Tapu (Munda Pahar) forest.

Pyrostria laljii has been assessed as 'Critically Endangered' based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List criteria.

Operation Olivia to protect Olive Ridley turtles

The Indian Coast Guard's "Operation Olivia", conducts in every year, initiated in the early 1980s, helps protect Olive Ridley turtles as they congregate along the Odisha coast for breeding and nesting from November to December.

The Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) is listed as vulnerable under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red list.

All five species of sea turtles found in India are included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and in the Appendix I of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which prohibits trade in turtle products by signatory countries.

Odisha has also formulated laws for protecting Olive Ridley turtles, and the Orissa Marine Fisheries Act empowers the Coast Guard as one of its enforcement agencies.

India is working towards restoring 2.6 crore hectare of degraded land

India is on track to achieve its national commitment on land degradation neutrality, and that it's working to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

Land is the fundamental building block for supporting all lives and livelihoods. The land degradation affects over two-thirds of the world.

India has taken the lead to highlight land degradation issues at international forums. The Delhi Declaration of 2019 called for better access and stewardship over land, and emphasised gender-sensitive transformative projects.

Land degradation poses a challenge to the developing world, and that India is assisting fellow developing countries to develop land restoration strategies.

A Centre of Excellence is being set up in India to promote a scientific approach towards land degradation issues.

Centre releases Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India

Ministry of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change released Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India.

It has been published by Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad. The Atlas provides state wise area of degraded lands for the time frame 2018-19. It also provides the change analysis for the duration of 15 years, from 2003-05 to 2018-19.

The Desertification and Drought day was commemorated by the Ministry, with an aim to generate large scale awareness towards understanding the key role of land in all environmental and economic concerns that world, as well as India is facing now-a days.

India has been at the forefront of bringing the issue of land degradation to the core of relevant international alliances for protection and conservation of environment.

The government of India has adopted collective approach for making progress towards achieving the national commitments related to land restoration.

Radio Telemetry deployed to identify corridors used by tigers in the Vidarbha landscape

Radio Telemetry has been deployed to identify corridors used by tigers in the Vidarbha landscape, tracking their actual movement — indicating that the animals are moving in a much wider swathe of area outside the protected areas than previously known.

The investigators belonged the Maharashtra Forest Department and Wildlife Institute of India (WII),

Vidarbha has 331 tigers in a forest area of around 26,775 sq km, dissected by 84,202 km of roads, apart from irrigation canals and other projects. There have been growing instances of man-tiger conflict in the region.

The project, carried out between 2017 and 2020 using radio signals, identified 37,067 sq km, in all, of tiger corridors.

They tracked the epic journey of Walker (as the tiger was dubbed) over 3,000 km from Tipeswar Sanctuary in Yavatmal district to Dnyanganga Sanctuary in Buldhana district.

Navy adopts roadmap for synergising aim of 'Blue Water Operations with a Green Footprint'

Indian Navy has adopted a comprehensive 'Indian Navy Environment Conservation Roadmap (INECR)' for synergising the aim of 'Blue Water Operations with a Green Footprint'.

Indian Navy commissioned one of its largest solar plant with a capacity of 3MW at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala in July 2020.

Another 2MW solar power plant was installed at Naval Station Karanja, Mumbai in July 2020. With this, the overall installed solar plant capacity at Naval Stations is 11 MW.

The installation of SPVs are in line with Navy's objective of fulfilling Govt of India's 'Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM)' mission.

Further, viability of setting up urban forests concepts such as Miyawaki forests is being emphasised to match the theme of World Environment Day 2021- 'Ecosystem Restoration'.

Great Barrier Reef should be added to UNESCO's list of "in danger"

According to the UNESCO in a draft report, the Great Barrier Reef of Australia should be put on the list of world heritage sites that are in danger.

The Great Barrier Reef gained World Heritage ranking in 1981, but over the years due to accelerated global warming, and ocean acidification due to the burning of fossil fuels, the ecosystem that is clearly visible even from space has undergone several bleaching events in the past five years.

As temperatures rise, the corals expel their symbiotic partners the marine algae – zooxanthellae – that live in them, giving them their vibrant colours and food supply through photosynthesis.

UNESCO believes adding the reef to the "in danger" list can help address the growing threats to this fragile ecosystem by unlocking access to more funds or by publicising the issue.

Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary to become the 4th Tiger reserve of Rajasthan

The National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) granted nod to the Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary to become the 4th Tiger reserve of Rajasthan.

This Sanctuary is located at a distance of 45 Km from Bundi City on Bundi-Nainwa Road near Village Ramgarh, District Bundi, Rajasthan.

The total area of 1,017 sq. km has been identified as the reserve area comprising two forest blocks of Bhilwara, territorial forest block of Bundi and Indargarh, which falls under the buffer zone of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR).

Its flora consists of Dhok, Khair, Salar, Khirni trees with some Mango and Ber trees. The Fauna consists of birds and animals like Leopard, Sambhar, Wild boar, Chinkara, Sloth bear, Indian Wolf, Hyena, Jackal, Fox, deer and Crocodile.

Rajasthan has three tiger reserves with over 90 big cats at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR) in Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve (STR) in Alwar, and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR) in Kota.

World's first genetically modified (GM) rubber plant has planted in Assam

The world's first genetically modified (GM) rubber plant developed by RRII was planted on the outskirts of Guwahati, Assam.

It is developed by the Kerala-based Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), under the Rubber Board through long years of research in its Biotechnology laboratory.

The GM rubber plant, which is the first of its kind developed specifically for the northeast and is expected to flourish in the region's climatic conditions.

The plant has additional copies of gene MnSOD (manganese-containing superoxide dismutase) in it and is expected to revolutionize natural rubber production in India.

It can protect plant cells and can also survive in severe environmental stresses such as cold and drought.

Karnataka launched a dedicated war room for animal welfare

Karnataka launched a dedicated war room for animal welfare, said to be the first such initiative in the country.

The 24x7 war room, which operates from the Pashupalana Bhavan in Hebbal, will give information on the rearing of cows, sheep, goat, pigs, and rabbits besides poultry farming.

People can also get information on the availability of various breeds of cattle and the approximate price range.

Farmers can get information on immediate measures to be followed to protect their cattle from the war room, according to officials.

The public too can call the war room regarding issues such as stray cattle.

Delhi launched a 15-day "Van Mahotsav" Program to increase the green cover

Delhi government launched the 'Van Mahotsav' (tree plantation festival) to increase the green

cover of the national capital and involve more people.

Under this 15 day program ministers, MLAs and Speaker of the Delhi assembly will lead plantation drives in each of their constituency in different places to reach the goal set by Chief Minister of planting two crore saplings in this tenure of which 33 lakh will be planted this year.

According to the government a full scale audit will be carried out of the all the saplings planted, Delhi government has organised tree plantation drives to increase Delhi's green belt and to lessen the pollution levels.

The Van Mahotsav started from Garhi Mandu, Yamuna Bank will run for the next fifteen days, the Deputy Chief Minister are expected to take part and lead the campaign.

NTPC to install 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032

NTPC Limited, under Ministry of Power has set a target to install 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032.

India's largest power producer is also aiming at 10% reduction in net energy intensity by 2032. NTPC is among the few organisations globally to declare its Energy Compact goals.

NTPC Limited has become first energy company in energy domain in India to declare its Energy Compact goals as part of UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE).

NTPC declared that it will form at least 2 international alliances/groups to facilitate clean energy research and promote sustainability in energy value chain by 2025.

United Nations is set to convene a high-level dialogue in September, 2021 to promote the implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Association of cloud bursts with forest fires

A recent study has found a connection between the formation of the tiny particles, the size of a cloud droplet on which water vapor condenses leading to the formation of clouds and forest fires.

The quantity of such particles called the cloud condensation nuclei (CCNs) were found to have peaks associated with forest fire events.

This first-time study published in the 'Atmospheric Environment' journal showed that the highest concentration of CCN was found to be associated with excessive fire forest activities of the Indian subcontinent.

There were other peaks also associated with a variety of events, such as long-range transportation and local residential emission.

This research will be helpful in source allocation of pollutants reaching the high-altitude regions of Garhwal Himalaya. Also, it will provide the better understanding for the cloud formation mechanism and weather extremities over this region.

HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

3 new caves discovered in the Trirashmi Buddhist cave complex of Nashik

Recently, three more caves in Nashik hill have been found by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), after the discovery of Trirashmi Buddhist caves or the Pandav Leni by a British military officer.

It is believed that these caves could be dwellings of Buddhist monks, and while their antiquity has not yet been determined, the archaeologists are of the opinion that these caves date back to before the Trirashmi caves.

All the caves have verandahs and the characteristic square stone platform for monks. There are special arrangements for monks to meditate, similar to the Kanheri and Wai caves.

The Trirashmi or Pandav Leni caves are a group of 25 caves that were carved out of Trirashmi Hill between the 2nd century BC and 6th century AD. The caves complex was documented in 1823.

It is now an ASI protected site and a tourist destination. The Buddhist sculptures and caves (in Nashik) are a early example of Indian rock-cut architecture representing the Hinayana tradition of Buddhism.

NCSM collaborates with SMG-London for international travelling exhibition

National Council of Science Museums, India is collaborating with one of the largest museum groups in the world- Science Museum Group, London for an international travelling exhibition called 'Hunt for the Vaccine'.

National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) is a premiere institution in the field of science communication.

It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. It is Headquartered in Kolkata. It was established in 1978.

It is primarily engaged in popularizing Science and Technology through a network of science centres and Mobile Science Exhibitions (MSE) units that visit rural schools.

Presently NCSM administers and manages 25 science museums/centres spread across the country and is the “world’s largest network of science centres and museums that functions under a single administrative umbrella” with an annual reach to about 15 million people.

Ban of entry to the ordinary citizens in Sri Nanjundeshwara temple

Despite the Ban of entry to the ordinary citizens in Sri Nanjundeshwara temple, son of Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, B.Y. Vijayendra has admitted to entering the temple in Nanjangud.

The Karnataka High Court asked the State government why the ordinary citizens are not allowed to enter temples like B.Y. Vijayendra despite a ban imposed in view of COVID-19 lockdown.

The Nanjundeshwara Temple is also called Srikanteshwara Temple.

It is an ancient temple in the Hindu pilgrimage town of Nanjanagudu in the Karnataka.

It is dedicated to god Nanjundeshwara (another name for the god Shiva, also known as Nanjundeshwara).

Nanju in Kannada means poison; the name Nanjundeshwara means the "God who Drank the Poison" (halahala), a word that has its origins in the legend of the Great Churning of the Ocean of Milk; thus the town got the name 'Nanjangudu' which means "the abode of the god Nanjundeshwara".

Rajasthan to set up Vedic Education and Sanskar Board

The Rajasthan state government set up to a Vedic Education and Sanskar Board to revive the knowledge of ancient Sanskrit scriptures and connect the learnings of the Vedas with science and yoga.

The board is likely to be set up in the coming four to five months.

The ruling Congress had promised the establishment of the Vedic Education and Sanskar Board as well as steps to promote Sanskrit language and education in its manifesto for the 2018 State Assembly election.

MoU signed for development of National Maritime Heritage Complex

The Union ministry of ports, shipping and waterways and the Union ministry of culture signed an MoU for 'Cooperation in development of National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)' in Lothal in Gujarat.

The NMHC will be developed in the vicinity of the ASI site of Lothal, located about 80km from Ahmedabad.

The complex will be developed as an international tourist destination, where the maritime heritage of India from ancient to modern times will be showcased.

For developing the project, the land transfer formalities have been completed and all land-related clearances and the environmental nod have been obtained.

The NMHC will be developed in an area of about 400 acres. It will house unique structures such as National Maritime Heritage Museum, Lighthouse Museum, Heritage Theme Park, museum-themed hotels, maritime-themed eco-resorts, and Maritime Institute. These will be developed in a phased manner.

Culture Ministry organised Flag Satyagraha in Madhya Pradesh

The programme was Union Culture Ministry organised and observe the Flag Satyagraha in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh with IGNCAs as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemorate 75 years of Country's independence.

The program started with a cultural satyagraha padyatra from Kamaniya Gate in the city to Gandhi Bhawan, the Town Hall complex.

In India, Flag Satyagraha is a campaign of peaceful civil disobedience during the Indian independence movement that focused on exercising the right and freedom to hoist the nationalist flag and challenge the legitimacy of the British Rule in India through the defiance of laws prohibiting the hoisting of nationalist flags and restricting civil freedoms.

Flag Satyagrahas were conducted most notably in the city of Jabalpur and Nagpur in 1923 but also in many other parts of India.

On 31 December 1929 the Congress concluded the adoption of the Purna Swaraj declaration of independence with Congress President

Jawaharlal Nehru hoisting the nationalist flag along the banks of the Ravi River in Lahore.

Other notable flag satyagrahas were organised in Mysore (now in Karnataka) in 1938 known as Shivapur Dhwaja Satyagraha, under leadership of T.Siddalingaih president of Mysore Congress.

IMPORTANT DAYS & EVENTS

Health Ministry's event to mark the 'World No Tobacco Day'

Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan organized an event on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day that smokers face a 40-50% higher risk of developing severe disease deaths from COVID-19.

He further expressed that use of tobacco in the country has decreased by six percentage points from 34.6% in 2009-10 to 28.6% in 2016-17.

In India, over 1.3 million deaths are attributable to tobacco use every year amounting to 3500 deaths per day, imposing a lot of avoidable socio-economic burden.

Smokers face a 40-50% higher risk of developing severe disease deaths from COVID-19.

As per the WHO study titled "Economic Costs of Diseases and Deaths Attributable to Tobacco Use in India", the economic burden of diseases and deaths attributable to tobacco use of tobacco in India was as high as Rs. 1.77 lakh crores, amounting to approx 1% of GDP.

World Milk Day 2021

The World Milk Day is observed on 1 June each year to recognise the importance of milk as a global food. The main objective of this day is to

focus on activities that are connected to the dairy sector.

The theme of 2021 will focus on Sustainability in the dairy sector with messages around the environment, nutrition and socio-economics.

World Milk Day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 2001. The day is intended to provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector.

India is the world's largest milk producer. India accounts for over one-fifth of the global milk production. This is followed by the US, China, Pakistan and Brazil.

India produced 198.4 million tonnes of milk during 2019-20.

Value of output of milk is more than Rs 7.72 lakh crore during 2018-19 at current prices which is more than the value of output of wheat and paddy together.

Milk Production has grown at an average annual growth rate of 6.3% per year during last 6 years whereas world milk production is growing at the rate of 1.5% per year.

Percapita availability of milk has increased from 307 grams per person per day in 2013-14 to 406 grams per person per day in 2019-2020 that is y 32.24%.

National Egg Day 2021

National Egg Day is observed on June 3 annually to celebrate the nutritious food, which is packed with protein and amino acids.

Eggs are one of the few foods considered to be a complete protein, because they contain all 9 essential amino acids. Amino acids are

considered 'building blocks for the body' because they help form protein.

In addition to giving you energy, your body uses the protein found in eggs to:

- build and repair body tissues and cells
- build and maintain healthy muscles
- grow strong hair and nails
- help fight infections
- help keep your body fluids in balance

To maintain a healthy, balanced diet, Canada's Food Guide recommends eating 1-3 servings of Meat and Alternatives every day, depending on age and gender. This includes a variety of protein sources, such as meat, poultry, fish, beans and eggs.

World Environment Day 2021

World Environment Day is celebrated on 5 June each year to create awareness of the need to take positive and effective action to protect our environment.

The theme for World Environment Day 2021 is 'Ecosystem Restoration' and Pakistan will be the global host for the day.

This World Environment Day will kick off the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), a global mission to revive billions of hectares, from forests to farmlands, from the top of mountains to the depth of the sea.

The day is celebrated by engaging governments, businesses, celebrities and citizens to focus their efforts on a pressing environmental issue.

The term ecosystem referred to as a community of plants and animals interacting with each other in a given area, and also with their non-living environments. The non-living environments

include weather, earth, sun, soil, climate and atmosphere.

Ecosystem restoration means preventing, halting, and reversing this damage – to go from exploiting nature to healing it. Ecosystem restoration means assisting in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded or destroyed, as well as conserving the ecosystems that are still intact.

World Bicycle Day 2021

The International Bicycle Day is celebrated on 3 June each year to spread awareness about the innumerable benefits of cycling including clean and carbon free environment, affordability and physical fitness.

The simple means of transport which is of immense benefits to our physical and mental being also has the potential role to play in making our lifestyle greener and sustainable.

Cycling does not only make our body leaner and fitter but also ensures that the body is free from co-morbidities like diabetes and heart diseases.

The first time the International Bicycle Day was celebrated was three years back in the year 2018.

The factors that make cycling one of the most beneficial activities is its ability to combat climate change, physical and mental health issues along with its universal appeal due to its simplicity and affordability.

With the declaration of the day as an event of international importance by the UN, the governments around the world have been influenced to promote cycling by formulating facilitative policies, constructing cycle-friendly

lanes, giving tax breaks to cycle industry and running awareness campaigns.

World Oceans Day 2021

World Oceans Day is celebrated on June 8 each year to create awareness among human beings of the benefits it has enjoyed from the ocean so far.

This year, the theme of World Ocean Day is 'The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods'. The day highlights the need and necessity to protect oceans from further deterioration. The United Nations (UN) declared World Oceans Day as an official occasion in 2008.

This was first suggested in 1992 during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The aim behind this was to not only celebrate the vast water body and its benefits in our lives but also to raise awareness about what can be done to make it a part of sustainable development.

UNESCO states that this day is observed to remind everyone that oceans are the lungs of our planet. Awareness is raised about how to conserve it and rescue it from the eventual degradation that is caused by our careless activities.

World Child Labour Prohibition Day 2021

The World Child Labour Prohibition Day is celebrated on 12 June each year to raise awareness and activism to prevent child labour.

The theme of this year's World Day Against Child Labour is: "Act now: end child labour." This theme has been included because COVID-19 pandemic has pushed millions towards poverty and child labour is directly linked to it.

World Day Against Child Labour was introduced in 2002 by the International Labour Organisation.

It was reported by UNICEF and International Labour Organization (ILO) this year that the number of children in child labour has risen to 160 million across the world. This is an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years.

This day mainly focus on the children development and it protects the right of education and dignified life for the children.

Therefore, it is important to achieve the Sustainable development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 as propagated by the UN. Several organisations, ILO etc. are making efforts to curb the child labour.

World Blood Donor Day 2021

World Blood Donor Day is celebrated on 14 June each year to raise global awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion and of the critical contribution voluntary, unpaid blood donors make to national health systems.

This year, the theme, rather the slogan, for the day is 'Give blood and keep the world beating.' This highlights the contribution the blood donors have made in this regard.

The day also provides an opportunity to call to action to governments and national health authorities to provide adequate resources and put into place systems and infrastructures to increase the collection of blood from voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors.

This day was first organized by the World Health Organization on June 14, 2005. Since then, this day is celebrated to raise awareness as well as

thank the various blood donors around the world who do their bit to save a life.

World Wind Day 2021

World Wind Day is celebrated on 15 June each year with great joy and excitement all over the world.

The day aims at increasing awareness about wind energy and its uses. The day is celebrated all over the world for the importance of wind energy and how it can change the world for the better.

Global Wind Day is organised by WindEurope and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and the national associations.

This day was established to introduce the general people to wind energy and its benefits through a series of activities.

With the times like these where the threat of global warming is looming over the world, it becomes important to use energy forms like wind energy in an efficient way.

According to globalwindday.org, wind energy is currently a mature and mainstream technology.

Raja Parba festival is celebrated in Odisha

Odisha celebrated a 3-day festival Raja Parba. During this period, it is believed that Mother Earth menstruates and prepares herself for future agricultural activities with the arrival of monsoon.

Raja Parba or Mithuna Sankranti is a three-day-long festival and the second day signifies beginning of the solar month of Mithuna from, which the season of rains starts.

It welcomes the agricultural year in Odisha, which marks, through biological symbolism, the moistening of the sun dried soil with the first showers of the monsoon in mid-June thus making it ready for productivity.

It is believed that the mother Goddess Earth or the divine wife of Lord Vishnu undergoes menstruation during the first three days.

The fourth day is called as Vasumati gadhua or ceremonial bath of Bhudevi.

The term Raja has come from Rajaswala (meaning a menstruating woman) and during medieval period the festival became more popular as an agricultural holiday remarking the worship of Bhudevi, who is the wife of lord Jagannath.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2021

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed on 17 June every year to create awareness about sustainable development and the welfare of people.

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, the theme for this special day is "restoration, land and recovery. We build back better with healthy land".

The United Nations General Assembly in December 1994 acknowledged this day to spread awareness about the cooperation required to combat desertification and drought.

The UN General Assembly is also making efforts to bring attention to the association between consumption and land.

The day is also going to be observed to make individuals mindful about community

participation at all levels. It will help in the execution of the plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

World Sea Turtle Day 2021

World Sea Turtle Day is celebrated on June 16th June to honor and highlight the importance of sea turtles. These creatures, like any other creature, are magnificent in their own way.

Turtles are the world's oldest reptile groups in existence, across the world found even before lizards and snakes.

The first few years of a marine turtle's life are often referred to as the 'lost years'. That's because the time between when the hatchlings emerge until they return to coastal shallow waters to forage is incredibly difficult to study. The lost years they spend at sea – which can be up to 20 years – largely remain a mystery to humans.

The seven species of sea turtle are Loggerhead, Green, Leatherback, Hawksbill, Olive Ridley, Kemp's Ridley, and Flatback. Out of these seven, two species, Hawksbill and Kemp's Ridley are considered critically endangered.

Jyeshtha Ashtami 2021

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted all, specially the Kashmiri Pandit community, on the auspicious occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami.

Jyestha Ashtami is celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir by members of the Kashmiri Pandit community at the shrine of Kheer Bhawani in Tullamula in honour of their patron goddess Ragnya Devi.

"Kheer" (rice boiled in milk) is prepared on this day as a food offering.

Mela Kheer Bhawani is an Annual Festival during which the devotees of the Goddess Mata Kheer Bhawani fast and gather here on the day of "Zeshta Ashtami," the eighth day of the full moon in the month of May/ June when, according to belief, the Goddess changes the colour of the spring's waters.

World Refugee Day 2021

World Refugee Day is celebrated on June 20 each year to respect and honour the courage and resilience of refugees across the world.

This year the theme for World Refugee Day is 'Together we heal, learn and shine'. The United Nations has stated that the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic has made it evident that we can only succeed by standing together.

World Refugee Day was celebrated for the first time on June 20, 2001, on the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention.

The United Nations observes this day to honour the refugees who have been forced outside of their homes. The day aims to build understanding and empathy for refugees building their lives in countries new to them.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 82.4 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced by the end of 2020 as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order.

International Day of Yoga 2021

International Day of Yoga is celebrated on 21 June each year to raise awareness about the many benefits of practising Yoga for people all over the world.

This year, the theme is 'Yoga For Wellness', which focuses on practising Yoga for physical and mental wellbeing.

The date was chosen because June 21 is the longest day in Northern Hemisphere. The word Yoga has originated from the Sanskrit word Yuj which means 'to join or to unite.'

The idea of International Yoga Day was conceived by PM Modi, who proposed the concept on September 27, 2014, during his speech at the UN General Assembly.

The resolution to adopt June 21 as International Yoga Day was introduced in the UN by India's Ambassador, Ashoke Kumar Mukerji.

The resolution had received support from 177 nations, the highest number of co-sponsors for any UN Resolution. Currently, countries ranging from Canada to the USA participate in this event.

World Sickle Cell Day 2021

World Sickle Cell Day observed on 19th June 2021 every year to raise awareness about its treatment measures and to get effective control over this disease across the world.

The World Sickle Cell Day 2021 Theme is 'Shine the Light on Sickle Cell'. The day is observed to cover all the curable standards through the fast awareness program to take this genetic health condition under control across the world.

A variety of promotional activities will be conducted by the WHO (World Health Organization) on the worldwide level to fix this hemoglobin dysfunction issue.

In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly created the World Sickle Cell Day to raise

awareness among the peoples about sickle cell disease and its treatment methods.

On 19th June of 2009, the day was first observed. According to the reports, in Africa, nearly 1000 babies are taking birth every day having Sickle Cell Disease and getting die up to five years of age.

Fleet Awards Function 2021

Fleet Awards Function 2021 was held to celebrate the operational achievements of the Eastern Fleet during the last year on 19 Jun 21.

Fleet Awards Function marks the culmination of the Operational Cycle of the Eastern Fleet and recognises accomplishments of the 'Sword Arm' of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC).

The function culminated with the distribution of sixteen coveted trophies covering the overall spectrum of maritime operations.

INS Sahyadri was adjudged as the Best Ship of the Eastern Fleet amongst Capital ships, INS Kamorta as the Most Spirited Ship for displaying indomitable spirit and grit whilst undertaking a plethora of challenging missions and Best Corvette trophy as won by IN Ships Kiltan and Khukri amongst Corvettes and similar classes of ships.

18th Foundation Day of National Internet Exchange of India

National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) celebrated its 18th Foundation Day on 19 June 2021. For the last 18 years, NIXI has been contributing to Indian Internet Ecosystem.

National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is a not-for-profit organization (section 8 of the Companies Act 2013) working since 2003 for

spreading the internet infrastructure to the citizens of India through the following activities:

- Internet Exchanges through which the internet data is exchanged amongst ISP's, Data Centers and content delivery networks (CDNs).
- NIXI is also the .IN Registry managing India's country code top level domain (ccTLD) - .IN and .भारत IDN domain.
- NIXI also manages the National Internet Registry of the country delegating Internet Protocol addresses (IPv4 and IPv6) and Autonomous System numbers to the Indian Affiliates.

International Olympic Day 2021

International Olympic Day is celebrated on June 23 each year to encourage more people to participate in the Olympic games and raise awareness about the number of sports held during this event.

Olympics is a leading international sports events where thousands of athletes from around the world take part in a variety of competitions.

The modern-day Olympic games are inspired by the ancient Olympic Games held in Olympia, Greece between the 8th century BC and the 4th century AD.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was found in 1894 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin and the first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens in 1896.

International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice 2021

International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice is observed on 21 June every year to

focus about solstices and equinoxes and their magnitude for numerous religions & ethnic cultures.

The proclamation of International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice with the aid of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 20th June 2019 within Resolution A/RES/73/300.

Solstice is that the factor at which the Sun is at its best distance from the world and equinox is when area is that the lowest.

Both solstice and equinox have their personal significance for Christians, Muslims, and different religions.

There are two solstices that show up annually: round the summer time solstice (commonly referred to as “Summer Solstice” for being the most important day of summer and it is the longest day of the year) and 21st December (commonly referred to as “Winter Solstice” for being the predominant day of winter and the shortest day of the year).

World Music Day 2021

World Music Day is observed on 21 June each year to encourage young and amateur musicians to perform.

On this day, also known as Music Day or Make Music Day, anyone can play their favourite instruments for enjoyment and relaxation.

More than 120 countries commemorate this day as people organise free public concerts in parks, stadiums, and public places, mostly for music lovers and learners.

The first World Music Day was observed and celebrated on the Summer Solstice in France in the year 1982 when the former French minister

of art and culture, Jack Lange, along with Maurice Fleuret started the Fête de la Musique in Paris.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2021

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed on 26 June each year to spread awareness about the problems caused because of drug abuse around the world.

The aim is to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.

This year, the theme of International Day Against Drug Abuse is 'Share Facts On Drugs, Save Lives'. Sharing of credible data along with factual information, is the only way to fight misinformation about usage of drugs.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 7 December 1987. The problem of drug abuse was already recognized globally during the early 20th century.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) releases a World Drug Report every year. The report provides data and facts about the intensity of drug problem around the world. Moreover it also provides practical solutions to tackle these problems.

International Seafarers Day 2021

International Seafarer Day is observed on 25 June each year to acknowledge and spread awareness about the importance of the contribution made by seafarers to world trade.

International Maritime Organization (IMO) has decided the theme of "A Fair Future for

Seafarers" for International Day of the Seafarer 2021.

IMO adopted a resolution to observe the Day of the Seafarers in the year 2010. The first International Day of the Seafarer was observed on 25 June 2011. It is now part of the annual list of United Nations Observances.

The campaign for International Seafarer Day 2021 has been encourages governments from around the world to support seafarers amid the pandemic. It also calls for a fair future for them.

Famous Snaana yatra of Lord Jagannath begins at Puri

The famous Snaana Yatra of Lord Jagannath has begun in Puri. Snaana Yatra is a ceremonial grand shower festival celebrated on the Purnima of the Hindu month of Jyeshtha.

This is the first occasion in the year as per the Hindu calendar, when the deities Jagannath, Balabhadra, Subhadra, Sudarshan, and Madanmohan are brought out from the Jagannath Temple (Puri) and taken in a procession to the Snaana Mandap inside the temple premises.

They are ceremonially bathed in 108 pots of ritually purified water and decorated for a public audience.

The Skanda Purana mentions that King Indradyumna arranged this ceremony for the first time when the idols of the deities were first installed.

In the evening, at the conclusion of the bathing ritual, Jagannath and Balabhadra are dressed up in elephant headgear representing the God Ganesh. This form of the God is called the 'Gajavesha'.

After the Snaana Yatra the Gods are traditionally believed to fall ill and are kept in a sick room to recuperate in privacy under the care of the Raj Vaidya.

National Statistics Day 2021

National Statistics Day is celebrated on 29 June each year on the birth anniversary of late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.

Often referred to as the 'father of Indian statistics', Mahalanobis, was born on June 29, 1893, in Calcutta (now Kolkata), West Bengal.

The theme of National Statistics Day 2021 is Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture.

The Government of India decided to celebrate National Statistics Day on the outstanding contribution made by Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the field of economic planning and statistics and therefore National Statistics Day mark his birth anniversary.

Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis or P.C. Mahalanobis was born on 29 June, 1893, Calcutta (now Kolkata), India.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

China Announced the 3-Child Policy

According to Chinese government, Married Chinese couples may have up to three children, in a major shift from the existing limit of two after recent data showed a dramatic decline in births in the world's most populous country.

The policy change will come with supportive measures, which will be conducive to improving

our country's population structure, fulfilling the country's strategy of actively coping with an ageing population.

China had a fertility rate of just 1.3 children per woman in 2020, recent data showed, on par with ageing societies like Japan and Italy and far short of the roughly 2.1 needed for replacement level.

Beijing scrapped its decades-old one-child policy in 2016, replacing it with a two-child limit to try and stave off risks to its economy from a rapidly aging population.

But that failed to result in a sustained surge in births given the high cost of raising children in Chinese cities, a challenge that persists to this day.

Germany recognising the colonial-era genocide in Namibia

Germany has recognised that it committed genocide against the Herero and Nama people in present-day Namibia during its colonial rule over a century ago.

Between 1904 and 1908, German colonial settlers killed tens of thousands of men, women and children from the Herero and Nama tribes after they rebelled against colonial rule in what was then called German South West Africa.

Between 1884 and 1890, Germany formally colonised parts of present-day Namibia — a territory which was roughly twice as large as the European nation, but not as densely populated. By 1903, around 3,000 German settlers had occupied the central high ground of the region.

Tensions quickly rose as local tribes saw the German settlers as a threat to their land and resources. The conflict reached a boiling point in 1904, when the Herero nation — a primarily

pastoral community — rebelled against the Germans, and were closely followed by the Nama tribe.

During the Battle of Waterberg, around 80,000 Herero, including women and children, were chased across the desert by German troops. A mere 15,000 survived.

The Germans continued to rule the region till 1915, following which it fell under South Africa's control for 75 years. Namibia finally gained independence in 1990.

The atrocities committed in what was then known as German South West Africa have been described by some historians as the first genocide of the 20th century.

China's space station plans gather pace with cargo docking

China took another step towards completing the construction of its first space station by the end of next year following the launch and docking of a cargo spacecraft.

The Tianzhou-2 cargo spacecraft, described by as "the delivery guy for China's space station", was launched on a Long March-7 rocket from the island of Hainan, and docked eight hours later with the space station's first core module called Tianhe, or "heavenly harmony".

The Tianzhou-2 spacecraft carried a range of supplies, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said, and will be followed by the launch of another cargo spacecraft, Tianzhou-3, and two manned missions, Shenzhou-12 and Shenzhou-13, this year, each carrying three astronauts who will spend several months in orbit. The Shenzhou-12 launch is slated for mid-June.

More than 160 large and small packages, including supplies for astronauts and space science equipment, and two tonnes of propellant have been loaded into the cargo freighter, according to the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST).

Cabinet approved ratifying SCO agreement on mass media cooperation

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for signing and ratification of an Agreement on “Cooperation in the field of Mass Media” between all the Member States of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. The Agreement was signed in June, 2019.

The SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation. It is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance and has been the primary security pillar of the region.

It was established in 2001. It was preceded by the Shanghai Five mechanism. The Eight member states are: India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

The Heads of State Council (HSC) is the supreme decision-making body in the SCO. It meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organisation.

Isaac Herzog elected as the new president of Israel

Isaac Herzog has been elected as the new President of Israel, as opponents of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu try to reach a last-ditch agreement on a new coalition government.

His father, Chaim Herzog, was Israel's ambassador to the United Nations before being elected president.

His uncle, Abba Eban, was Israel's first foreign minister and ambassador to the United Nations and United States. His grandfather was the country's first chief rabbi.

Herzog has served as head of the Jewish Agency, a nonprofit that works closely with the government to promote immigration to Israel, for the past three years since resigning from parliament.

Given his deep ties to the political establishment, he was seen as the favourite to win the presidency.

The president, while largely a ceremonial head of state, is tasked with picking a political party leader to form governing coalitions after parliamentary elections.

African Union suspends Mali after military coup & threatens sanctions

Mali's membership has been suspended by the African Union in response to military coup and threatened sanctions, if a civilian-led government is not restored.

Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa. Its capital is Bamako. Mali borders Algeria to the north-northeast, Niger to the east, Burkina Faso to the south-east, Ivory Coast to the south, Guinea to the south-west, and Senegal to the west and Mauritania to the north-west.

The African Union (AU) is a continental union consisting of 55 member states located on the continent of Africa. In 2017, the AU admitted Morocco as a member state. The AU replaced the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which

was established in 1963. The OAU was disbanded in 2002.

Largest warship in the Iranian navy caught fire and sank

Iranian navy's largest warship named "Kharg" caught fire and later sank in the Gulf of Oman under unclear circumstances.

The ship sank near the Iranian port of Jask, some 1,270 kilometers (790 miles) southeast of Tehran on the Gulf of Oman near the Strait of Hormuz — the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf.

The warship Kharg is named after the island that serves as the main oil terminal for Iran. Kharg or Khark Island is an island in the Persian Gulf belonging to Iran.

The Gulf of Oman or Sea of Oman is a gulf that connects the Arabian Sea with the Strait of Hormuz, which then runs to the Persian Gulf. It borders Iran and Pakistan on the north, Oman on the south, and the United Arab Emirates on the west.

India to vote for Maldives in UNGA President election

India is going to vote in support of Maldives' Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid at the election for the President of the General Assembly (PGA) in the United Nations.

The decision which will disappoint another close neighbour, Afghanistan, which has former Foreign Minister Zalmi Rassoul in the running.

The President is the chair and presiding officer of the General Assembly.

The President is a position voted for by representatives in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on a yearly basis.

The presidency rotates annually between the five geographic groups: African, Asia-Pacific, Eastern European, Latin American and Caribbean, and Western European and other States.

It is customary that no permanent member of the United Nations Security Council ever serves as UNGA president.

The only countries that had a national elected as President of UNGA twice are Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Nigeria; all the other member states had been represented only once by their nationals holding this office.

Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit (1900 – 1990) of India served as 8th President of the UNGA in 1953. she was also First woman president of UNGA.

The Red Tourism promoted by China

The popularity of 'red tourism', which involves visiting places that are of historical and cultural importance for the party, is at an all-time high in the country, as the Chinese Communist Party celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2021.

In China, 'red tourism' refers to visiting sites which have a modern revolutionary legacy. Launched in 2004, the purpose of the project is to promote locations with historical and cultural significance to the ruling Communist Party's history.

Nanhu Lake in East China's Zhejiang, where the First National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party was held on a boat in 1921, and Mao Zedong's birthplace Shaoshan have been witnessing huge footfall in recent times.

The 'red tourism' has been bringing in huge revenues which is fuelling China's economic boom since the pandemic.

'Red tourism' seeks to spread awareness about the history of the Communist Party of China starting from its origins.

For instance, historical events such as the Long March, the military retreat undertaken by the Red Army to evade the pursuit of the Kuomintang in 1934, and the ascent to power of Mao Zedong are at the heart of the project.

Facebook suspends Donald Trump's account until 2023

Facebook recently suspended former U.S. President Donald Trump until at least January 2023 and announced changes to how it will treat world leaders who break the rules on its site.

Trump has been permanently banned by Twitter (TWTR.N) and remains suspended by Alphabet's (GOOGL.O) YouTube after the riot.

Social media companies have grappled in recent years with how to handle world leaders and politicians who violate their guidelines.

Recently the Nigerian government suspended Twitter's activities in the country, two days after the company removed a post from President Muhammadu Buhari that threatened to punish regional secessionists.

Recently Twitter also removed the blue tick, which lets people know that an account on the social media platform is authentic, from the personal handle of vice president M Venkaiah Naidu.

Syria has likely used chemical weapons 17 times

Recently the international chemical weapons watchdog told the U.N. Security Council that its experts have investigated 77 allegations against

Syria, and concluded that in 17 cases chemical weapons were likely or definitely used.

Syria was pressed to join the chemical weapons convention in 2013 by its close ally Russia after a deadly chemical weapons attack that the West blamed on Damascus.

In 2014, President Bashar al-Assad's government declared that the destruction of its chemical weapons was completed.

But Syria's initial declaration to the OPCW has remained in dispute. In April 2021, the OPCW suspended Syria's rights until all outstanding issues are resolved.

Chemical weapons are typically categorized as blister, nerve, choking, blood and riot-control agents, and the effects of these weapons are felt immediately upon inhalation or skin contact. Examples of chemical weapons are mustard gas, sarin, chlorine, hydrogen cyanide and tear gas.

India elected to UN Economic and Social Council for 2 years

India has been elected to the United Nations Economic & Social Council for the term 2022-24.

The ECOSOC is at the centre of the UN development system and brings together people and issues to promote collective action for a sustainable world.

India was elected in the Asia-Pacific States category along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman in the elections.

The 54-member Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development economic, social and environmental.

It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals

It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations.

Kenya launched Mega infrastructure project, the Lamu port

East African country, Kenya launched the Lamu port, which is a part of an ambitious transport corridor between Lamu (a small archipelago north of Mombasa in Kenya), South Sudan and Ethiopia.

Kenya already has one deep-water port in Mombasa. Plans for a second one to diffuse economic dependency on Mombasa go back to the mid-1970s. However, it only materialised in March 2012.

The Lamu port is going to be Kenya's second deep-water port after Mombasa.

The port is part of the wider US \$23 billion Lamu Port South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor and has been constructed by China Communications Construction Company, with the first three of the planned 32 berths coming at a cost of US \$367 million.

This transport corridor is touted to comprise a standard gauge railway line; an oil pipeline and refinery; road network; international airports at Isiolo, Lamu, Lokichogio; the port of Lamu at Manda Bay; and resort cities.

International cooperation to bring back fugitive economic offenders

India has made it clear that the world is presently combatting another serious emerging challenge of Fugitive Economic Offenders and Assets which flee across national jurisdictions.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressed the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on international cooperation to combat the challenge of Fugitive Economic Offenders and Assets.

India's Fugitive Economic Offenders Act 2018 law empowers authorities for non-conviction-based attachment and confiscation of proceeds of crime and properties and assets of a 'fugitive economic offender' –against whom a warrant for arrest in relation to a Scheduled Offence has been issued by any court in India and who has left the country to avoid criminal prosecution or judicial processes.

The bill was passed by both the houses of Parliament in 2018 after the Nirav Modi-PNB fraud worth more than ₹12,000 crore and Vijay Mallya having fled the country to avoid being arrested for economic fraud.

FEO is defined as an individual who has committed a scheduled offence (economic offences contained in the Schedule to this Bill) or offences involving an amount of 100 crore rupees or more and has absconded from India or refused to come back to India to avoid or face criminal prosecution in India.

It proposes to establish a special court under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002. It will be able to declare an alleged fraudster a fugitive economic offender.

Interpol launched Global database to identify missing persons

The Interpol launched a new global database named “I-Familia” to identify missing persons through family DNA and help the police solve cold cases in member countries.

The International Police Organisation is commonly known as Interpol. It is an international organization facilitating international police cooperation against cross-border terrorism, trafficking, and other crime.

INTERPOL has 194 member countries, making us the world's largest police organization. State of Palestine is its member.

All decisions regarding the activities of INTERPOL are made by the General Assembly which is its supreme governing body which meets annually.

It is ‘NOT’ a unit or part of united nation system. It is an independent international organization. Each country hosts an INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB), which links national police with our global network in India, CBI is the NCB.

These are international alert/requests circulated by Interpol allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information. There are eight types of notices, seven of which are colour-coded by their function. An eighth Special Notice is issued at the request of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

G7 corporate tax deal for India and the world

The Finance ministers meeting of G7 grouping in London agreed to combat tax evasion by requiring corporations to pay taxes in the countries where they do business.

The first decision that has been ratified is to require multinational corporations to pay taxes in the countries where they operate.

The agreement's second conclusion commits governments to a worldwide minimum corporate tax rate of 15% in order to prevent countries from undercutting one another.

The decision to ratify a 15% floor rate follows from a declaration of war on low-tax jurisdictions around the globe announced by US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in April 2021, who had urged the world's 20 advanced nations to move in the direction of adopting a minimum global corporate income tax in April.

She that the move to put a minimum rate in place attempted to reverse a “30-year race to the bottom” in which countries have resorted to slashing corporate tax rates to attract multinational corporations.

The US proposal had proposed a higher 21 per cent minimum corporate tax rate, coupled with cancelling exemptions on income from countries that do not legislate a minimum tax to discourage the shifting of multinational operations and profits overseas.

Abdulla Shahid elected president of 76th session of UN General Assembly

The Maldives' Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid elected as the new President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

The election to the UNGA presidential post is held on an annual basis, rotated amongst various regional groupings. The 76th UNGA session (2021-22) was the turn of the Asia-Pacific group.

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN.

All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation.

Each year, in September, the full UN membership meets in the General Assembly Hall in New York for the annual General Assembly session

China hosts ASEAN ministers to push back against Quad

China is hosting foreign ministers from the 10 ASEAN countries with Beijing pushing for closer economic cooperation and aligning COVID-19 recovery efforts even as it looks to push back against the recent regional outreach of the Quad grouping.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional organization that brings together disparate neighbors to address economic, security, and political issues, but the group's impact remains limited.

It is an intergovernmental organization of ten Southeast Asian countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The bloc's biggest success has been promoting economic integration among members. It also helped negotiate the RCEP agreement to create one of the world's largest free trade blocs.

ASEAN has struggled to form a cohesive response to China's claims in the South China Sea, which conflict with those of several members.

Militant attack in Burkina Faso

The death toll from the worst militant attack in Burkina Faso in recent years has risen to 132, after armed assailants laid siege overnight to a village in the jihadist-plagued northeast.

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa and is bordered by Mali to the northwest, Niger to the northeast, Benin to the southeast, Togo and Ghana to the south, and the Ivory Coast to the southwest.

It was previously called Republic of Upper Volta. Its capital is Ouagadougou.

The country owes its former name of Upper Volta to three rivers which cross it: the Black Volta (or Mouhoun), the White Volta (Nakambé) and the Red Volta (Nazinon).

The basin of the Niger River also drains 27% of the country's surface.

El Salvador becomes first country to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender

El Salvador became the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender after the country's Congress on June 9, 2021.

Cryptocurrency is a digital asset which works as a medium of exchange wherein individual coin ownership records are stored in the form of a computerized database.

It does not exist in physical form and not issued by central authority Bitcoin is the first decentralized cryptocurrency which was released in 2009.

Bitcoin is decentralized digital currency which lacks central bank or single administrator. It is sent from user to user on peer-to-peer bitcoin network.

A satoshi is the smallest unit of a bitcoin, equivalent to 100 millionth of a bitcoin. The Founder of Bitcoin is Satoshi Nakamoto.

El Salvador is a country in Central America. It is bordered on the northeast by Honduras, on the northwest by Guatemala, and on the south by the Pacific Ocean. El Salvador's capital and largest city is San Salvador.

EIU releases Global Liveability Ranking 2021

The Economist's Intelligence Unit recently released its annual Global Liveability Index, with New Zealand's Auckland earning the number 1 spot. According to the EIU survey, six of the top 10 cities are in New Zealand and Australia.

The cities that have risen to the top of the rankings this year are largely the ones that have taken stringent measures to contain the pandemic.

Adelaide, Osaka, Tokyo, and Wellington made up the top five Asia-Pacific cities on the 2021 edition of the EIU's annual Global Liveability Ranking.

Geneva and Zurich in Switzerland were among the non-Asia-Pacific cities to make it to the top 10 on the EIU ranking were for their standard of living.

While the EIU didn't reveal the full list of ranking for the 140 countries, it has also announced the 10 least liveable cities in the world, which are indicated alongside the top 10 most liveable cities in the world below:

10 Most Liveable Cities in the World

1. Auckland (New Zealand)
2. Osaka (Japan)
3. Adelaide (Australia)

4. Wellington (New Zealand)
5. Tokyo (Japan)
6. Perth (Australia)
7. Zurich (Switzerland)
8. Geneva (Switzerland)
9. Melbourne (Australia)
10. Brisbane (Australia)

PM Modi calls for open vaccine chains, 'one world, one health'

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi emphasised the "special responsibility of democratic and transparent societies to prevent future pandemics" and calls for open vaccine chains, 'one world, one health'.

Addressing the G-7 outreach session, Modi also expressed India's commitment to support collective endeavours to improve global health governance.

This came days after French President Emanuel Macron supported India's demand for lifting restrictions on export of raw materials needed to manufacture vaccines.

The session, titled 'Building Back Stronger – Health', focussed on global recovery from the pandemic and strengthening resilience against future pandemics.

Modi sought the G-7's support for a proposal moved by "India and South Africa at the WTO for a TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) waiver on Covid-related technologies". Sources said Australian PM Scott Morrison and others came out strongly in support of this.

First meeting of WHO high level coalition on health, energy

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan addressed the first meeting of the World Health Organization High-Level Coalition on Health and Energy Platform of Action.

The meeting was attended by several dignitaries and national heads, and representatives of various stakeholders like World Bank, UNDP, UNHRC, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) etc.

An expert body called the National Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health was constituted by government of India with the multiple objectives of creating awareness amongst the general population, health-care providers and policy makers regarding impact of climate change on human health.

This National Expert Group submitted its report recently in April 2021 with inclusion of Subject Specific Health Action Plans on identified Climate Sensitive Diseases and 'One Health'.

In the context of "Green and Climate Resilient Healthcare Facilities", India became signatory to the Malé Declaration in 2017 and agreed to promote climate-resilient healthcare facilities to be able to withstand any climatic event.

Discovered Small Field bid round-III for international competitive bidding

Discovered Small Field (DSF) bid round-III for international competitive bidding was launched by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel to awarding discovered acreages and monetize the unmonetized discoveries.

Encouraged by the success of DSF bid rounds-I &II, the Government of India has extended the DSF Policy by launching DSF bid round-III.

Previous two DSF rounds had a resounding success. In DSF Round – I launched in 2016, 134 bids were submitted for 34 contract areas by 47 companies. 30 Revenue Sharing Contracts were signed.

In DSF Round – II launched in 2018, 145 bids were submitted for 24 contract area. 24 Revenue Sharing Contracts were signed.

The DSF policy has multiple attractive features like revenue sharing contract model with low regulatory burden, no minimum biddable work programme, no prior technical qualification required, no upfront signature bonus, etc.

US signed new Atlantic Charter on trade with UK

US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson signed a new Atlantic Charter, modeled after the 1941 agreement, that outlines eight key areas on which the US and the United Kingdom plan to collaborate.

The agreement was signed at the first face-to-face meeting between Johnson and Biden at the 2021 G7 Summit in Cornwall, England.

The agreement is a new version of the Atlantic Charter, signed by Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941.

The charter commits to combating the modern challenges of cyberthreats and climate change and to bringing the pandemic to an end.

G7 rivals China with grand infrastructure plan

The Group of Seven richest democracies sought to counter China's growing influence by offering developing nations an infrastructure plan that could rival President Xi Jinping's multi-trillion-dollar Belt and Road initiative.

Leaders of the G7 - the United States, Canada, Britain, Germany, Italy, France and Japan - want to use their gathering in the seaside resort of Carbis Bay to show the world that the richest democracies can offer an alternative to China's growing clout.

The re-emergence of China as a leading global power is considered to be one of the most significant geopolitical events of recent times, alongside the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union that ended the Cold War.

The G7 and its allies will use the B3W initiative to mobilise private-sector capital in areas such as climate, health and health security, digital technology, and gender equity and equality.

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) scheme, which Xi launched in 2013, involves development and investment initiatives that would stretch from Asia to Europe and beyond.

India and Kuwait signed MoU for cooperation on recruitment of Indian workers

India signed an MoU with Kuwait to bring Indian domestic workers in the Gulf nation within the ambit of a legal framework that streamlines their recruitment and provides them with the protection of the law.

The MoU brings the Indian domestic workers in Kuwait within the ambit of a legal framework that streamlines their recruitment and provides them with the protection of the law.

The MoU seeks to establish a mechanism for 24-hour assistance to domestic workers. It provides for the establishment of a joint committee for periodic review and assessment and to follow up the implementation of the MoU which will conduct annual meetings.

Around one million (ten lakh) Indians reside in Kuwait. India is amongst the largest trading partners of Kuwait and the Gulf nation is a major supplier of oil to India.

The year-long celebrations will continue through 2021-2022. Mr. Jaishankar chaired a round-table conference of Indian ambassadors in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Iran.

The GCC is a political and economic alliance of six countries – Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman.

India unlikely to allow return of 4 Kerala women who joined Islamic State

The four Indian women lodged in an Afghanistan prison, who accompanied their husbands to join the Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP), are unlikely to be allowed to return to the country.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant – Khorasan Province (ISIL-KP) is a branch of the militant Islamist group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), active in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Some media sources also use the terms ISK, ISISK, IS-KP, or ISIS-K in referring to the group.

Its main activity is in the border region of eastern Afghanistan and northern Pakistan. However, its area of operations also includes other parts of South Asia, such as India where individuals have pledged allegiance to it.

Khorasan (also transcribed as Khurasan and Khorassan) was a province in north eastern Iran, but historically referred to a much larger area comprising the east and north-east of the Persian Empire.

Mainly comprising defectors from Tehrik-i-Taliban (TTP), the Wilayat Khorasan of Islamic State in Afghanistan came into existence in 2015. Senior government officials however maintain that ISKP is run by Pakistan's Inter State Intelligence.

UN Security Council (UNSC)'s non-permanent members for 2022-23 term

For the 2022-23 term, Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates were elected unopposed to the powerful UN Security Council as non-permanent members.

The 193-member UN General Assembly held elections to elect five non-permanent members who will take their seats on the 15-nation Council for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2022.

All the five countries won the elections unopposed as they were the only candidates from their respective regional groups vying for the allotted seats on the Council.

As per regional distribution for the 2021 election, three seats were available from the African and Asian States that went to Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates, one Latin American and Caribbean Group seat to which Brazil was

elected and the Eastern European Group seat that went to Albania.

The election for the non-permanent members of the Security Council is held by secret ballot and candidates require a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly to be elected.

Every year, five countries are elected to the 15-member Council as non-permanent members for a two-year term, according to a geographical rotation set by the General Assembly in 1963

It ensure fair regional representation: five from African and Asian and Pacific States; one from Eastern Europe; two from Latin American States; and two from Western European and Other States (WEOG).

Naftali Bennett elected as New Prime Minister of Israel

Naftali Bennett, a former ally of Netanyahu turned rival, elected as the new prime minister of Israel after got the 60-59 vote.

Bennett, 49, is a former chief of staff to Netanyahu whose small party is popular with religious Jews and West Bank settlers.

As he addressed the raucous debate, he was repeatedly heckled and shouted down by Netanyahu's supporters. Some were removed from the chamber.

Bennett, an observant Jew, noted the Jewish people twice lost their homeland in biblical times due to bitter infighting.

Centre received Rs 10 crore by Italy as compensation in fishermen killing case

The Central government has deposited Rs 10 crore with the top court paid by the Republic of Italy as compensation to the families of the two Kerala fishermen who were shot dead in 2012 by two Italian Marines aboard the Enrica Lexie ship, in lieu of closure of criminal cases against the two navy personnel in India.

On February 15, 2012, two Indian fishermen returning from a fishing expedition near Lakshadweep islands onboard fishing vessel St Antony were gunned down by two Italian marines on board oil tanker Enrica Lexie.

The incident occurred around 20 nautical miles off the coast of Kerala. Shortly after the incident, the Indian Coast Guard intercepted Enrica Lexie and detained the two Italian marines— Salvatore Gironi and Massimiliano Latorre.

Following this, the Kerala Police registered an FIR against them for murder and arrested them.

B3W to counter the Belt and Road Initiative of China

The G7 (seven richest economies in the world) arrived at a consensus and offered developing nations an infrastructure plan which can rival China's multi-million-dollar Belt and Road Initiative or BRI.

The infrastructure plan is being led by United States president Joe Biden.

The Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative, will provide a transparent infrastructure partnership to help narrow the \$40 trillion, the leaders at the G7 summit hoped.

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) scheme, which president Xi Jinping launched in 2013, involves development and investment initiatives that would stretch from Asia to Europe and beyond.

More than 100 countries have signed agreements with China to cooperate in BRI projects like railways, ports, highways and other infrastructure.

31st formal meeting of heads of government of NATO

The 31st formal meeting of the heads of state and heads of government of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 14 June 2021.

NATO Leaders discussed key issues, took decisions about future of NATO and agreed on concrete measures to adapt NATO in accordance with NATO 2030 agenda.

Topics of discussion include NATO's role in changing geostrategic environment, emerging technologies, collective defence, climate change and security.

NATO, also called as North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance of 30 European and North American countries. NATO implements North Atlantic Treaty which was signed in 1949.

It comprises of a system of collective defence where independent member states agree for mutual defence in case of any attack by external party. Headquarter of NATO is located at Haren in Brussels, Belgium.

World Giving Index 2021

Charities Aid Foundation's (CAF) recently released the World Giving Index (WGI) 2021 as the USA, Canada, Ireland, the UK, and the Netherlands- all fell out of the highest rankings.

India is now in the Top 20 most generous countries in the world, at 14. This is up from the 10-year global rank of 82.

Only Australia and New Zealand, where the survey was undertaken in the weeks before the first wave of the pandemic took hold, maintained their top 10 rankings.

Several countries have moved up the rankings and made their first appearance in the top 10, including Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, and Kosovo, but whilst their overall giving scores have increased somewhat, their rise is driven by the relative decline of other countries.

Communities around the world mobilised to help fellow citizens during the pandemic, resulting in the highest 'helped a stranger' figures since 2009.

More than half (55%) of the world's adults – or 3 billion people - reported helping someone they didn't know in 2020.

The 5th edition of VivaTech held in Paris, France

The 5th edition of VivaTech held in Paris, France where the Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a keynote address.

Other prominent speakers in the event include President of France Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister of Spain Pedro Sanchez and ministers and MPs from various European countries.

The event will also witness the participation of corporate leaders including Apple CEO Tim Cook, Chairman and CEO, Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg and President, Microsoft Brad Smith.

VivaTech is one of the largest digital and startup events in Europe, held in Paris every year since 2016. It is jointly organised by Publicis Groupe - a prominent advertising and marketing conglomerate and Les Echos - a leading French media group.

S. Jaishankar has inaugurated Mahatma Gandhi Library in Nairobi

On June 14, Dr S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister recently inaugurated the renovated Mahatma Gandhi Library at the University of Nairobi in Kenya.

India's association with this university goes back to decades and Mahatma Gandhi's memory who was meant to underline our strong solidarity.

Since the 1960s Indian universities have hosted many young Kenyans who have risen to important positions in various fields. Every year, the government of India offers more than 400 scholarships to Kenyans.

Kenya, officially the Republic of Kenya, is a country in Eastern Africa. Kenya is the world's 48th largest country by total area.

Nairobi is the capital and the largest city of Kenya. The name comes from the Maasai phrase Enkare Nairobi, which translates to "cool water", a reference to the Nairobi River which flows through the city.

A tense Food Shortage is facing by North Korea

North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un issued a rare warning about a “tense” food situation brought about by extensive flooding, the coronavirus pandemic and international sanctions.

North Korea’s grain production was estimated to have dropped from 4.64 million tons in 2019 to 4.4 million last year. That creates an overall grain shortage of 1.35 million tons this year.

North Korea has always suffered annual grain shortages, though the country has tried to fill the gap with trade and international aid, especially from China.

Kim has since promised to lead his country through the sanctions by building a “self-reliant economy” that produces more goods at home and depends less on trade with the outside world.

North Korea already subjected to the FATF Black List due to on-going and substantial money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/FT) risks emanating from the jurisdictions.

Bangladesh to set up international vaccine institute

Bangladesh recently decided to set up an international institute for vaccine production including for COVID 19.

The government will sign an agreement with South Korea to set up the vaccine institute in Bangladesh. She said that government to government negotiations are going on with the countries which have developed vaccines for COVID 19 for technology transfer.

The capacity of three Banglaesshi firms has been assessed for the production of the COVID 19 vaccines. A vaccine developed by one of the Bangladeshi companies Globe Biotech Ltd is now in the trial stage.

The government has taken initiative to produce COVID 19 vaccine along with collecting vaccines from various sources in the world in view of the Corona pandemic.

Bangladesh has so far received 1.08 crore doses of the COVID 19 vaccine from foreign sources out of which 1.02 crore doses came from India including the gifted doses of over 3 million doses.

Pakistanis Protests against Chinese Ships at Gwadar

Near the Gwadar port in Pakistan's Balochistan, hundreds of Chinese fishing trawlers posing a threat to the livelihoods of thousands of fishermen in the province.

The Chinese fleet arrived Gwadar to engage in fishing. The fleet consists of 'factory ships', which contain food processing units to preserve fishes.

At the Gwadar port, which belongs to close ally Pakistan, the Chinese catch fishes, which they then process and sell to international markets, thereby depriving local fishermen of their livelihoods.

However, due to interference by the Chinese ships, lakhs of fishermen are on the verge of unemployment and several families will be adversely affected by Chinese trawlers in the port.

Due to the situation, the fishermen would become increasingly dependent on the outside

forces for their employment and their livelihoods will be destroyed.

Meanwhile, the presence of Chinese boats is complicating the distribution of fish catches and threatening the survival of fishermen from the Philippines, according to activists.

Zambia's founding president Kenneth Kaunda Passed away

Kenneth Kaunda, the founding president of Zambia passed away recently at the age of 97.

Popularly known by his initials KK, Kaunda was nicknamed by some "Africa's Gandhi" for his non-violent, independence-related activism in the 1960s.

Zambia is a landlocked country at the crossroads of Central, Southern and East Africa.

Its neighbors are the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the north, Tanzania to the north-east, Malawi to the east, Mozambique to the southeast, Zimbabwe and Botswana to the south, Namibia to the southwest, and Angola to the west.

The capital city of Zambia is Lusaka. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is headquartered in Lusaka.

Ebrahim Raisi won the Iran's presidential election

Ebrahim Raisi recently won the Iran's Presidential election propelling the supreme leader's protege into Tehran's highest civilian position in a vote that appeared to see the lowest turnout in the Islamic Republic's history.

Iran is a Middle East country. Its capital is Tehrān, a sprawling, jumbled metropolis at the southern foot of the Elburz Mountains.

Iran, which is a member of the cartel, sits upon 13% of global oil reserves. It produces over four million barrels per day, accounting for 4% of total global production.

The United States has imposed restrictions on activities with Iran under various legal authorities since 1979, following the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

The global dirty money watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) placed Iran on its blacklist on Friday after it failed to comply with international anti-terrorism financing norms, a move that will deepen the country's isolation from financial markets.

ADB loan to Social development programmes in Bangladesh

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently approved a USD 250 million loan to Bangladesh to help finance reforms.

It is aimed at improving the inclusiveness and responsiveness of the country's social development and resilience program.

The Strengthening Social Resilience Program will include institutional and policy reforms to address cross-sector issues of social development in Bangladesh.

These include improving the coverage and efficiency of the social protection system through improving the administrative efficiency of social protection management.

The program will expand its outreach to vulnerable women by increasing the coverage of both the old age allowance for women over 62 and the allowance for widowed, deserted, and destitute women in 150 sub-district units or upazilas.

Bengaluru topped the list of Ease of Living Index 2020

Bengaluru among Indian cities with a population of more than a million, has emerged as the best city on ease of living parameters among 49 million-plus cities in 2020.

The IT capital of India has pushed the earlier top ranker Pune to number two, while Ahmedabad ranked the third among 111 other cities.

Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in the Million+ category, followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Surat, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Indore, and Greater Mumbai.

The ease of living is the lowest in Bareilly, Dhanbad and Srinagar.

In cities with a population of less than a million, Shimla was ranked the highest followed by Bhubaneswar while Muzaffarpur in Bihar was had the lowest score, according to the Ease of Living Index 2020 prepared by the ministry of housing and urban affairs.

The rankings under Ease of Living Index 2020 were announced for cities with a population of over a million, and cities with less than a million people. The assessment exercise was conducted last year. As many as 111 cities participated in the exercise.

Hungary banned LGBT content from school curriculum

Hungary banned all content about homosexuality and gender change from Hungarian school curriculum and television shows for children under the age of 18.

The latest Hungarian legislation outlaws disseminating information meant for children which is considered to promote homosexuality or gender change.

The law also limits who can conduct sex education classes in schools. Now, only individuals and organisations listed in an official government registry can carry out these classes.

The limitations placed on content is not limited to school curriculum alone. It also bans TV shows meant for children, which feature gay characters or LGBTQI+ themes.

The law also bans companies and organisations from running advertisements in support of the LGBTQI+ community, if they are targeted at minors.

Biden signed bill making Juneteenth a national holiday

President Biden signed into law a bill creating a federal holiday to commemorate Juneteenth, the day marking the end of slavery in Texas.

Juneteenth is the portmanteau of June and nineteenth and is recognised as a state holiday in 47 US states.

The day is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the US and is observed on June 19.

It is also known as Emancipation Day or Juneteenth Independence Day.

Juneteenth will be the first new federal holiday created in almost four decades, and will now enjoy the same status as the 10 existing annual holidays, which include Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

The last such holiday – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – was created in 1983, in honour of the civil rights hero.

Israel becomes the first country to use Aerial Laser Weapons to shoot down hostile drones

Israel's Defence Ministry and defence contractor Elbit Systems Ltd are developing an airborne laser weapon to shoot down drones and other flying targets and it becomes the first country to use Aerial Laser Weapons to shoot down hostile drones recently.

Preliminary tests of the laser, flown on a light aircraft, were successful against several drones at ranges of around 1 km (half a mile) in recent days.

A 100-kilowatt prototype with a range of 20 km (12.5 miles) would come out in three to four years. That suggested an operational version would take longer to roll out.

The ministry, Elbit and state-owned Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd are also working on a ground-based laser weapon for shooting down aerial threats.

Ajit Doval proposed action against Pak terror groups at SCO meet

National Security Advisor of India Ajit Doval has proposed an "action plan" against Pakistan based terror groups like LeT & JeM at the Shanghai cooperation organisation or SCO NSAs meet.

LeT & JeM has been responsible for many terror attacks in India, especially in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

JeM created with the support of Pakistan Spy Agency ISI was responsible for the Pulwama terror attack in which 40 Indian soldiers were martyred.

Interestingly, India also emphasised on adoption of international standards to counter terror financing including an MoU between SCO and FATF, an anti-terror financing body.

NSA highlighted connectivity projects like Chahbahar, INSTC, Regional Air Corridors which are leading to "economic gains and building trust" but pointed out that "connectivity must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity".

Russia and UK at odds over incident in the Black Sea

According to Russia's Defense Ministry, warning shots were fired near the British warship and bombs dropped in its path after it ignored Russian instructions to depart in the Black Sea.

The dispute occurred as Russia steps up pressure on NATO to cancel the Sea Breeze military exercises that are due to begin in the Black Sea region.

The Defender had recently been in Odessa, Ukraine, where British officials signed an agreement to boost Ukraine's naval capacity, and British and Ukrainian forces took part in exercises described as involving firefighting and damage control.

Black Sea is bordered by Ukraine to the north, Russia to the northeast, Georgia to the east, Turkey to the south, and Bulgaria and Romania to the west.

The Black Sea contains only a few small islands, the largest being Zmiyinyy (Fidonisi) of Ukraine,

east of the Danube delta, and Berezan at the mouth of the Dniester River estuary.

Pakistan to remain on FATF grey list

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has remain put Pakistan on the 'Grey List' due to failed to take appropriate action against UN-designated terrorists such as 26/11 accused Hafiz Saeed and JeM chief Masood Azhar.

Although the global anti-money laundering and terror financing body has acknowledged some progress made by Pakistan.

Early this year, Islamabad-based think tank Tabadlab revealed that Pakistan sustained a total of \$38 billion in economic losses due to FATF decision to thrice place the country on its grey list since 2008.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog. The inter-governmental body sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society.

China is going to run first electric train in Tibet

China operationalised its first fully electrified bullet train in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet, connecting the provincial capital Lhasa and Nyingchi.

The 435.5-km Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway has been inaugurated ahead of the centenary celebrations of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) on July 1.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway will be the second railway into Tibet after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway. It will go through the southeast of the Qinghai-

Tibet Plateau, one of the world's most geologically active areas.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway starts from Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, and travels through Ya'an and enters Tibet via Qamdo, shortening the journey from Chengdu to Lhasa from 48 hours to 13 hours.

Nyingchi is prefecture-level city of Medog which is adjacent to the Arunachal Pradesh border. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet, which is firmly rejected by India. The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Archaeologists have discovered new human species in Israel

An international group of archaeologists have discovered a missing piece in the story of human evolution at the Israeli site of Neshar Ramla.

It has recovered a skull that may represent a late-surviving example of a distinct Homo population, which lived in and around modern-day Israel from about 420,000 to 120,000 years ago.

As researchers Israel Hershkovitz, Yossi Zaidner and colleagues detail in two companion studies published in Science, this archaic human community traded both their culture and genes with nearby Homo sapiens groups for many thousands of years.

Pieces of a skull, including a right parietal (towards the back/side of the skull) and an almost complete mandible (jaw) were dated to 140,000–120,000 years old, with analysis finding the person it belonged to wasn't fully H. sapiens.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Bengal chief Secretary retired, to act as chief advisor to CM

Chief Minister of West Bengal appointed West Bengal's Chief Secretary (CS) Alapan Bandyopadhyay as Chief Advisor for three years, after allowing the bureaucrat who was ordered by the central government to report to Delhi, to retire.

In normal practice, the Centre asks every year for an "offer list" of officers of the All India Services (IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service) willing to go on central deputation, after which it selects officers from that list.

Rule 6(1) of the IAS Cadre Rules says an officer may, "with the concurrence of the State Governments concerned and the Central Government, be deputed for service under the Central Government or another State Government..."

It says "in case of any disagreement, the matter shall be decided by the Central Government and the State Government or State Governments concerned shall give effect to the decision of the Central Government."

Rule 16(1) of DCRB (Death-cum-Retirement Benefit) Rules says that "a member of the Service dealing with budget work or working as a full-time member of a Committee may be given extension of service for three months, with the prior approval of the Central Government".

Delhi HC dismisses plea seeking to halt Central Vista work

The Delhi High Court dismissed a petition seeking to halt the construction activities at the

Central Vista Avenue Redevelopment Project in view of the recent surge in COVID-19 cases.

It remarked that there was no reason for the court to suspend the construction activities as the workers were staying at the project site, and "COVID-19 protocols are adhered to and COVID-19 appropriate behaviour is being followed".

The petitioners had argued that the project was not an essential activity and hence, it could be put on hold for now during the pandemic.

The court noted that the work at the Central Vista Avenue Redevelopment was part of the Central Vista Project and of vital public importance and the legality of the project had been upheld by Supreme Court.

The Central Vista is a 3 km stretch in the heart of New Delhi that runs from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate. It is flanked by large green spaces and significant structures such as Parliament, the Secretariat buildings and the National Archives.

Expert Committee on Variable Capital Company submits its report to the IFSCA

The expert committee on Variable Capital Company, headed by Dr. K.P. Krishnan, has submitted its report on the feasibility of Variable Capital Companies in the International Financial Services Centres to the Chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), Shri. Injeti Srinivas.

International Financial Services Centres Authority constituted a Committee of Experts to examine the feasibility of the Variable Capital Company ('VCC') in India to examine the suitability of the Variable Capital Company as a vehicle for fund

management in the International Financial Services Centre in India.

The IFSCA set up this Committee to explore the potential for allowing another legal structure – popularly known as a variable capital company (VCC) – as an additional option through which asset managers could pool the investors' funds.

The VCC structure dispenses with some of the key limitations of companies and LLPs and provides for higher regulatory standards than those applicable to trusts.

Fund management activities are an important pillar of the overall financial services ecosystem. In line with the mandate given to the Committee, it examined the relevance and adaptability of the VCC for the IFSC in India or alternative structures to attract fund business in the IFSC.

Conventionally, pooling of funds in India is undertaken through three types of entities, namely, limited liability companies governed under the Companies Act, 2013; limited liability partnerships under the Limited Liability Partnership Act; and trusts governed under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.

Govt introduced a New system of processing of the Insurance claims

The Government of India has been on the forefront of the fight against COVID19 and has been supporting the efforts of States and UTs under the 'Whole of Government' approach.

The Union Government had already extended the 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19' for one year.

This will continue to provide the safety net to the dependents of health workers, who are deputed to take care of COVID-19 patients.

The scheme is being implemented through an Insurance policy from New India Assurance Company (NIACL).

The scheme was initially launched w.e.f. 30.03.2020 initially for a period of 90 days. The insurance policy has been extended twice so far.

It aims to provide comprehensive personal accident cover of Rs. 50 lakh to all healthcare providers, including community health workers and private health workers drafted by the government for the care of Covid-19 patients and for those who may have come in direct contact of COVID-19 patients and were at risk of being impacted by it.

Model Tenancy Act for circulation to the States/Union Territories for adoption

The Union Cabinet approved the Model Tenancy Act for circulation to all States / Union Territories for adaptation by way of enacting fresh legislation or amending existing rental laws suitably.

The government had first released the draft of the MTA in 2019. The Act aims to bridge the trust deficit between tenants and landlords by clearly delineating their obligations.

Besides, The Act is expected to give a fillip to private participation in rental housing as a business model for addressing the huge housing shortage.

The Model Tenancy Act will provide a model for urban and rural properties, as well as a template for residential and commercial properties.

In case of dispute between landlord and tenant, a rent authority, or a rent court would be available for speedy resolution.

A tenant will have to submit a security deposit of two months for residential premises. For commercial property, a tenant will have to pay six-month rent.

The tenant cannot sublet a part of or the whole property to someone else.

If the tenant fails to vacate the premises on the expiration of the period of tenancy or termination of tenancy, the landlord is entitled to double the monthly rent for two months and four times after that.

the landowner would give a notice in writing three months before revising rent. The landlord cannot hike the rent in the middle of the tenure.

Supreme Court verdict on sedition case against Vinod Dua

Journalist bodies welcomed the Supreme Court verdict on the sedition case against veteran journalist Vinod Dua.

The apex court had quashed the case against Dua for his alleged comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his YouTube show last year, saying a 1962 verdict entitles every journalist to protection.

Section 124A of the IPC penalises sedition as punishable with either imprisonment ranging from three years to a lifetime, a fine, or both.

The Supreme Court shielded Dua from arrest earlier and the case itself was quashed recently

by a two-judge bench comprising Justice U U Lalit and Justice Vineet Saran.

It held that his remarks constituted genuine criticism of the government and could not be labelled seditious. In doing so, the court also reiterated the principles in the landmark case on sedition — Kedar Nath Singh v Union of India (1962).

Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) 2021

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) at its meeting recently decided to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 4.0 per cent on the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation

Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains unchanged at 3.35 per cent and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 4.25 per cent.

The MPC also decided to continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward.

These decisions are in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4 per cent within a band of +/- 2 per cent, while supporting growth.

Citizenship to minority migrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh

Union Home Ministry recently said that the migrants belonging to six non-Muslim minority communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and

Bangladesh who came to India on valid documents before 2014 are eligible to apply online for citizenship from any part of the country.

The six communities are Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists and Parsis. Citizenship is a Home Ministry subject but it can delegate powers to States for specific objective.

The official asserted that this particular awareness drive was not related to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) that is intended to benefit undocumented (illegal migrants) from the six persecuted communities who entered India before December 31, 2014.

The CAA is yet to come into force as the rules that govern the law have not been notified by the Ministry yet.

Draft Model Rules for Live-Streaming and Recording of Court

The e-committee of the Supreme Court recently released the Draft Model Rules for Live-Streaming and Recording of Court Proceedings which is aimed at bringing greater transparency, inclusivity and access to justice".

The rules made it clear that matrimonial matters, including transfer petitions arising thereunder, cases concerning sexual offences, including proceedings instituted under Section 376 (rape) of Indian Penal Code, cases concerning gender-based violence against women among others will be excluded from live-streaming.

The e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India along with the Department of Justice, Government of India is working under the National Policy and Action Plan for implementation of Information and

Communication Technology ICT in the Indian Judiciary.

Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud is the Supreme Court Judge and Chairperson of e-Committee.

The right of access to justice, guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution encompasses the right to access live court proceedings.

Bombay HC cancels Amravati MP Navneet Kaur Rana's caste certificate

The Bombay High Court recently cancelled the caste certificate of Navneet Kaur Rana, an Independent member of Parliament from Maharashtra's Amravati.

According to PTI, the high court noted her claim of belonging to 'Mochi' caste for obtaining the Scheduled Caste certificate itself was fraudulent.

The court also said that it made with an intention to avail benefits given to a candidate from such category, despite knowing she does not belong to that caste.

A division bench of Justice RD Dhanuka and Justice VG Bisht directed her to surrender it within six weeks.

The bench also imposed a fine of ₹200,000, which she needs to pay to the Maharashtra Legal Services Authority within two weeks.

Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act of 2021

Democrat Representative Zoe Lofgren and Republican John Curtis, introduced the Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act of 2021 will "benefit the US economy by allowing American employers to focus on

hiring immigrants based on their merit, not their birthplace.

The bipartisan act seeks to phase out the seven per cent per-country limit on employment-based immigrant visas and raises the per-country limit on family-sponsored visas from seven per cent to 15 per cent. It provides for a nine-year period for the elimination of this limit.

The seven per cent limit was introduced in the mid-20th century, which has led countries with relatively small populations to be allocated the same number of visas as a relatively large-population country.

Think-tank Cato Institute had reported in March 2020 that 75 per cent of the backlog for employment-based visas was made up of Indians.

With the EAGLE Act, the per-country cap would be removed, which may expedite the petitions for those applying for employment-based green cards.

However, since the highest number of applicants are from India and China, the EAGLE Act also seeks to reserve visas for 'Lower Admission States' for nine fiscal years (FY).

ECI released an Atlas on General Elections 2019

Election Commission of India released 'General Elections 2019 – An Atlas' on June 15, 2021 to inspire academicians and researchers to further explore the vast landscape of the Indian elections.

17th General Elections conducted in 2019 were the largest democratic exercise in human history which witnessed the participation of 61.468 crore voters at 10.378 lakh polling stations

spread over 32 lakh square kilometer territory of India.

In the 23 States and UTs women voting percentage was more than the male voting percentage

The 2019 General Elections witnessed the lowest gender gap in the history of Indian elections. The Elector Gender Ratio which has shown a positive trend since 1971 was 926 in 2019 General Elections.

The Election Commission of India set up over 10 lakh polling stations in General Elections 2019 with the lowest number of electors per polling station (365) in Arunachal Pradesh.

The overall polling percentage in the last parliamentary election, including postal ballots, was 67.4%, which is the highest ever turnout in a Lok Sabha poll.

MoRTH Notified Common Format for Issuance of PUC

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has issued a notification for a common format of the PUC (Pollution Under Control) Certificate to be issued across the country, under Central Motor Vehicle Rules 1989.

The salient features of the PUC are as under:

- Introduction of uniform Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUC) format across the country and linking the PUC database with the National Register.
- The concept of Rejection slip is being introduced for the first time. This document can be shown at the service centre for getting the vehicle serviced or can be used, in case the PUC centre

device is not working properly when tested at another centre.

- There will be confidentiality of information viz. (i) Vehicle owner's mobile number, name and address (ii) engine number and chassis number (only the last four digits to be visible, the other digits shall be masked)
- The owner's mobile number has been made mandatory, on which an SMS alert will be sent for validation and fee.
- Enforcement would be IT-enabled and would help in better control over polluting vehicles.
- The QR code shall be printed on the form. It will contain the complete information about the PUC Centre.

Nandigram poll defeat challenges by Mamata Banerjee in Calcutta HC

West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee recently moved the Calcutta high court to challenging her Nandigram poll defeat by a margin of 1,956 votes to BJP candidate Suvendu Adhikari.

The Election Commission's role ends with the declaration of results, that is once the Returning Officer has signed the final result sheet (Form 20).

After that, an election petition is the only legal remedy available to a voter or a candidate who believes there has been malpractice in an election.

Such a person can challenge the result through an election petition submitted to the High Court of the state in which the constituency is located.

Such a petition has to be filed within 45 days from the date of the poll results; nothing is entertained by courts after that.

Although the Representative of the People Act of 1951 suggests that the High Court should try to conclude the trial within six months, it usually drags on for much longer, even years.

Tamil Nadu announced the formation of Economic Advisory Council to CM

The Tamil Nadu government announced to constitute an Economic Advisory Council to the Chief Minister to chart out a rapid and inclusive economic growth path for the State.

The focus of the state will be on to further diversify the industrial base of the districts and to ensure technological upgradation.

The state government also announced that necessary steps would be taken to hold local body elections after the intensity of the Covid pandemic subsided and after ensuring that the delimitation exercise undertaken previously was appropriate in all respects.

The government provided Rs 10,068 crore towards livelihood assistance after assumption of office.

Bihar government extends 'Mukhya Mantri Udyaymi Yojna' scheme

Bihar Government launched two ambitious schemes christened as the 'Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyaymi Yojna' and the 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyami Yojna' to promote entrepreneurship among youth and women of all sections under the state's 'Mukhaya Mantri Udyami Yojna' scheme.

The schemes were promised by the chief minister during the 2020 Bihar elections in a bid to counter the RJD's poll plank on unemployment.

During the polls, the chief minister had promised to extend the existing Rs 10 lakh financial assistance for entrepreneurship development to sections, if voted to power.

Earlier, 'the Mukhya Mantri Udyami Yojna' was started in 2018 and limited to the members of SC, ST and the extremely backward classes (EBCs).

From now on, youth and women-irrespective of caste and creed, wishing to start entrepreneurship, will get a loan of Rs 10 lakh, in which Rs 5 lakh would be a grant from the state government and the rest Rs 5 lakh will come as loan, refundable in 84 instalments.

Finance Act, 2021 inserted two new sections 206AB and 206CCA

Finance Act, 2021 inserted two new sections 206AB and 206CCA in the Income-tax Act 1961 which takes effect from 1st day of July, 2021.

These sections mandate tax deduction or tax collection at higher rate in case of certain non-filers (specified persons).

Higher rate is twice the prescribed rate or 5%, whichever is higher.

With this new functionality, the Government has reiterated its commitment to ease the compliance burden of taxpayers.

Tamil Nadu released guidelines for protecting school students from sexual abuse

The School Education Department of Tamil Nadu released detailed guidelines for schools to follow for student safety and protection from sexual violence. The initiative comes after multiple allegations of school teachers abusing students surfaced recently.

The department has directed schools to constitute a student safeguarding advisory committee (SAC), which will continually review, monitor, and recommend measures at the institutional level on all aspects of student safety.

The SAC should comprise the principal, two teachers, two PTA members, a management representative, a non-teaching staff member, and an optional external member.

The guidelines have been issued in the wake of several allegations of sexual harassment, abuse and misconduct surfaced on social media against faculty in many city schools.

A State-level Central Complaint Centre (CCC) with a hotline facility will be set up, as well as a dedicated e-mail address to receive school-based complaints of sexual abuse against students.

The purpose of the CCC is to offer an alternative complaint mechanism and provide appropriate guidance on the protocol to be observed so that all complaints are addressed.

Gujarat launched the 'Agricultural Diversification Scheme', 2021

Gujarat state government launched Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021 benefiting vanbandhu- farmers in tribal areas.

The scheme will benefit more than 1.26 lakh farmers from 14 tribal districts of the state. The state government is working to make agriculture sustainable and profitable in the tribal areas.

Under this scheme tribal farmers will get fertilizer-seed assistance of Rs. 31 crores in which 45 kg of urea, 50 kg of NPK and 50 kg of ammonium sulphate will be provided.

Seeds of crops like maize, Bitter Melon (karela), Calabash (dudhi), tomato, millet, etc. are provided under this scheme.

Task force to help govt in bringing major reforms in bureaucracy

Former Infosys CEO S D Shibu Lal has been appointed chairperson of a three-member task force formed to help the government in bringing major bureaucratic reforms through its ambitious "Mission Karmayogi".

The task force will be free to constitute working groups, co-opt additional members/experts/special invitees, and consult national and international leaders in the field.

The task force is expected to complete its work within a period of six months from the date of its constitution and submit its recommendations in the form of periodic/interim reports in respect of various terms assigned to it.

The task force shall submit its recommendations on organisational structure for the SPV aligning its vision, mission and functions; policy

frameworks for HR, compensation, IT, procurement and oversight functions, and staffing plans for top management including board members and key personnel with panels of potential candidates.

Centre launched 'itat e-dwar', an e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

Union Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), 'itat e-dwar'.

The newly developed e-Filing Portal would enable the parties to file their Appeals, Miscellaneous Applications, documents, paper books, etc., electronically.

The launch of e-Filing Portal 'itat e-dwar' will enhance the accessibility, accountability and transparency in the day to day working of the ITAT.

It would not only result in economization of the use of paper, savings in costs but also rationalization of the fixation of cases leading to quicker disposal of cases.

On this occasion, a virtual function was organized at the national level which was attended by the functionaries of ITAT from all the 28 stations.

Government announces big tax reliefs for taxpayers

The Government of India recently announced tax exemptions to encourage employers and members of the public for assisting those people

with COVID-19 treatment expenses and also those who have lost their families to the virus.

The government said that many taxpayers have received financial help from their employers and well-wishers to meet the cost of treatment of Covid-19. It has declared that there will be no tax liability on such amounts.

No tax on ex-gratia payment received on account of the family member of the deceased employee due to Covid. Financial help received from relatives and friends will also not attract any tax till the total amount reaches Rs 10 lakh.

Many people were facing discrepancies in linking their PAN with Aadhaar on the new income tax e-filing portal, therefore, the government has now extended this date from 30 June 2021 to 30 September 2021.

The deadline for payment under Vivad Se Vishwas scheme has been extended till August 31 while the last payment date with additional amount has been extended till October 31.

Tax compliance deadline extended to save capital gains tax. Tax compliance time falling between 1st April 2021 and 29th September 2021 for making an investment, acquisition, deposit, payment, purchase, construction or such other action to save tax under the provisions contained in sections 54 to 54 GB of the Income-tax Act has been extended till 30 September 2021.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA to send 128 glow-in-the-dark baby squids to ISS

NASA announced to launch a Falcon 9 rocket under the SpaceX's 22nd cargo resupply mission to send the micro-animals which includes 5,000 tardigrades dubbed as 'water bears', 28 glow-in-the-dark baby squids, Tardigrades, Butterfly IQ Ultrasound and new solar panels into the space.

The water animals, which will be launched aboard SpaceX's 22nd cargo resupply mission to the ISS, are part of experiments that could help scientists design improved protective measures for astronauts going on long-duration space travel.

One of these studies involves looking at how the water bears– tiny animals (around 1mm long) that can adapt to extreme conditions on Earth, including high pressure, temperature and radiation– would behave in a spaceflight environment.

Scientists also want to look at how microgravity conditions affect the relationship between the bobtail squid –which are also tiny (3 mm long)– and beneficial microbes, as part of a study called UMAMI, short for Understanding of Microgravity on Animal-Microbe Interactions.

The International Space Station (ISS) has been in space since 1998, and has been known for the exemplary cooperation between the five participating space agencies that run it: NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada).

India's first indigenous temperature data logger for the cold chain management

Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar (IIT Ropar) in Punjab has developed a first-of-its-kind IoT device – AmbiTag that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood.

That recorded temperature further helps to know whether that particular item transported from anywhere in the world is still usable or perished because of temperature variation.

AmbiTag is a first-of-its-kind IoT device that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood.

This information is particularly critical for vaccines including Covid-19 vaccine, organs and blood transportation.

Shaped as USB device, AmbiTag continuously records the temperature of its immediate surroundings “from -40 to +80 degrees in any time zone for a full 90 days on a single charge.

The device has been developed under Technology Innovation Hub – AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub) and its Startup ScratchNest. AWaDH is a Govt of India project.

RDSO becomes the FIRST Institution to be declared SDO under one

Indian Railways' RDSO (Research Design & Standards Organisation) has become the FIRST Institution to be declared SDO under "One Nation One Standard" mission on BIS (Bureau of

Indian Standards) which is Institution under Department of Consumer Affairs.

This unique initiative of two organisations under GOI is going to set a template for all the rest of leading research and standard development organisations in the country to follow and adapt World Class Standards.

RDSO, Lucknow, which is the sole R&D Wing of Ministry of Railways, is one of India's leading Standard formulating Body undertaking standardisation work for railway sector.

RDSO took the initiative to seek recognition as a Standard Developing Organisation (SDO) under the BIS SDO Recognition Scheme.

In the process, RDSO reviewed its Standard Formulation procedures to realign them with the Best Practices of Standardisation, encoded in the WTO-TBT “Code of Good Practice” and also mandated by the Bureau (BIS) as essential criteria for recognition as SDO.

NASA selects two missions for launch to Venus

US space agency NASA has selected two missions – VERITAS and DAVINCI+ – to head to the Venus.

Venus is the brightest object, after the moon, visible in the night sky from the Earth, which is because of the thick cover of cloud that reflects and scatters light around it.

Moreover, the planet is called Earth's twin because both the planets are similar in size, but they have quite a few differences.

The thick cloud cover or atmosphere of Venus causes it to trap the heat it receives from the

Sun, with surface temperatures going as high as 471 degrees Celsius.

This means that even though Mercury is closest to the Sun, Venus is the hottest planet in the solar system. At such high surface temperatures, even lead can melt on Venus.

Another difference is the fact that while Venus moves forward on its orbit around the Sun – similar to the Earth's movement – its rotation around its axis is backwards, opposite to the movement of most of the planets, which leads to a much longer day.

A Venus day equates to 243 days on Earth due to this reason. Venus does not have a Moon or any rings.

China launched new generation meteorological satellite

China has successfully launched the first of a new generation meteorological satellite into planned orbit which will be used in the fields of weather analysis, environmental and disaster monitoring.

The satellite, Fengyun-4B (FY-4B), was launched by a Long March-3B rocket in the early hours from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province.

The first of China's new-generation meteorological satellites, FY-4B will be used in the fields of weather analysis and forecasting, and environmental and disaster monitoring.

Its observation range covers Asia, the central Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean regions, so that the network will also greatly improve China's forecast accuracy of disaster weather including typhoons and storms.

It is equipped with a rapid imager, improving measurement resolution to 250 meters from the geostationary orbit and accelerating scan imaging of the Earth.

Indigenous Chip-Off technique to retrieve encrypted data

Scientists at Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), Sector 36, have developed an indigenous chip-off technique for helping the investigative agencies to produce credible evidences against criminals in the trial courts.

Using the technique, data has been retrieved from a smart cell phone which had been locked with the finger prints of a person who had died by suicide.

The technique is divided in six parts including opening the device using heat and air combination to remove its back and front covers, battery screws, other connections, etc. to retrieve the motherboard.

The NAND flash memory is located on the retrieved motherboard/circuit board, using appropriate heat (disordering) and chemicals (adhesive removal), the memory chip is physically removed.

The removed chip is cleaned and/or reballed if necessary and the forensic image/dump of the chip is then acquired by using an imaging software and an adapter connecting it to the PC. The further analysis is conducted with the standard softwares at the laboratory.

The technique, developed by scientists Akhlesh Kumar, Bhushan Ghode and Khevna Maniar at CFSL-36, was published along with a case study in the International Journal of Engineering Science and Research Technology (IJESRT).

India's First Indigenous Tumour Antigen SPAG9 for Cancer Treatments

Researchers at the New Delhi-based National Institute of Immunology (NII), an Autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), and clinicians at Cancer Institute, Adyar, Chennai have been working together to translate new scientific discoveries into improved care for cancer patients.

India's first indigenous tumour antigen SPAG9 was discovered by Dr Anil Suri in 1998 who is heading the Cancer Research Program at NII.

In a recent development, the SPAG9 antigen has received the trademark ASPAGNIITM. Currently, ASPAGNIITM is being used in dendritic cell (DC) based immunotherapy in cervical, ovarian cancer and will also be used in breast cancer.

Immunotherapy is a new approach that exploits the body's inner capability to put up a fight against cancer.

With this approach, either the immune system is given a boost, or the T cells are "trained" to identify recalcitrant cancer cells and kill them.

The ASPAGNIITM is a true example of translational cancer research and the Atmanirbhar Bharat spirit. It will eventually be helpful to patients in India and the world. This will be a real morale boost in affordable, personalised, and indigenous products for cancer treatment.

OneWeb's LEO constellation reached 218 in-orbit satellites

OneWeb's Low Earth Orbit (LEO) constellation reached 218 in-orbit satellites following the successful launch of 36 satellites.

The company only has one more launch to complete before it obtains the capacity to enable its 'Five to 50' service of offering internet connectivity to all regions north of 50 degrees latitude.

The Five to 50 service is expected to be switched on by June 2021 with global services powered by 648 satellites available in 2022.

Satellite Internet access is Internet access provided through communication satellites. Modern consumer grade satellite Internet service is typically provided to individual users through geostationary satellites.

LEO satellites have been orbiting the planet since the 1990s, providing companies and individuals with various communication services.

LEO satellites are positioned around 500km-2000km from earth, compared to stationary orbit satellites which are approximately 36,000km away. Latency, or the time needed for data to be sent and received, is contingent on proximity.

Jeff Bezos is going to space on his rocket company's first crewed flight

Amazon's CEO Jeff Bezos will be flying to space on the first crewed flight of the New Shepard, the rocket ship made by his space company, Blue Origin.

Founded in 2000, Blue Origin Federation, LLC is an American privately funded aerospace manufacturer and sub-orbital spaceflight services company headquartered in Kent, Washington.

Founded by Jeff Bezos who later went on to become the chief executive officer of Amazon, the company is led by CEO Bob Smith and aims

to make access to space cheaper and more reliable through reusable launch vehicles.

Blue Origin is employing an incremental approach from suborbital to orbital flight, with each developmental step building on its prior work. The company motto is Gradatim Ferociter, Latin for "Step by Step, Ferociously".

Indian Navy inducts 3 Indigenously-Built Advanced Light Helicopters

The Indian Navy recently inducted three indigenously-built advanced light helicopters ALH MK III that would be used for maritime reconnaissance and coastal security.

The three helicopters, made by the Centre-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, were inducted at the Indian Naval Station (INS) Dega, Eastern Naval Command (ENC), in Visakhapatnam

ALH MK III helicopters feature an array of systems previously seen only on heavier, multi-role helicopters of the Indian Navy.

These helicopters are fitted with modern surveillance radar and electro-optical equipment, which enable them to undertake the role of maritime reconnaissance in addition to providing long-range search and rescue, both by day and night.

Allocation of 5 MHz spectrum in 700 MHz frequency band to Indian Railways

The government of India decided to allocate 5 MHz spectrum in the 700 MHz frequency band to the Indian Railways for improving its communication and signalling systems.

Indian Railways has envisaged to provide LTE-based mobile train radio communication on its route.

The Railways currently relies on optical fibre for its communication network but with the allocation of fresh spectrum, it will be able to use high-speed radio on a real-time basis.

Frequency is the number of occurrences of a repeating event per unit of time. It is also occasionally referred to as temporal frequency to emphasize the contrast to spatial frequency, and ordinary frequency to emphasize the contrast to angular frequency. The SI unit of frequency is hertz (Hz).

IIT-Kharagpur develops Early Cyclone Detection Technique

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, researchers developed Early Cyclone Detection Technique to strengthening of tropical cyclones in the atmospheric column prior to satellites over ocean surface in the North Indian Ocean region.

Researchers have devised a novel method using Eddy detection technique to investigate the formative stages and advance detection time of tropical cyclogenesis in the region.

Early detection of tropical cyclones has wide socio-economic implications. So far, remote sensing techniques have detected them the earliest. However, this detection was possible only after system developed as a well-marked low-pressure system over the warm ocean surface.

The method aims to identify initial traces of pre-cyclonic eddy vortices in the atmospheric column and track its spatio-temporal evolution. They

used a coarser grid resolution of 27 kilometers for identification and a finer resolution of nine km to evaluate the characteristics of eddy vortices.

The study was conducted with cases of four post-monsoon severe cyclones — Phailin (2013), Vardah (2013), Gaja (2018), Madi (2013), and two pre-monsoon cyclones Mora (2017) and Aila (2009) that developed over North Indian Ocean.

Google to build longest Undersea Cable in the World

Alphabet's Google is all set to build world's longest undersea cable Connecting United States, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay to bolster Internet connection capacity between these regions.

The cable, called Firmina, will be the longest cable in the world and it will run from the East Coast of the United States to Las Toninas, Argentina, with additional landings in Praia Grande, Brazil, and Punta del Este, Uruguay.

A submarine communications cable is a cable laid on the sea bed between land-based stations to carry telecommunication signals across stretches of ocean and sea, also lake or lagoon.

The first submarine communications cables laid beginning in the 1850s carried telegraphy traffic, establishing the first instant telecommunications links between continents, such as the first transatlantic telegraph cable which became operational on 16 August 1858.

Subsequent generations of cables carried telephone traffic, then data communications traffic. Modern cables use optical fibre technology to carry digital data, which includes telephone, Internet and private data traffic.

Anti-hail guns to help out to Himachal's problem of crop damage

The Himachal Pradesh government will be testing the use of indigenously developed 'anti-hail guns' to help out horticulturists who face crop damage due to hailstorms.

An anti-hail gun is a machine which generates shock waves to disrupt the growth of hailstones in clouds, according to its makers.

It comprises a tall, fixed structure somewhat resembling an inverted tower, several metres high, with a long and narrow cone opening towards the sky.

The gun is "fired" by feeding an explosive mixture of acetylene gas and air into its lower chamber, which releases a shock wave (waves which travel faster than the speed of sound, such as those produced by supersonic aircraft).

These shock waves supposedly stop water droplets in clouds from turning into hailstones, so that they fall simply as raindrops.

In 2010, the state government had imported three anti-hail guns from the United States and installed them in three separate villages in the apple-growing belt of Shimla, where hailstorms in summer cause severe damage to the fruit every year.

Fastly fixes CDN glitch caused the websites to go down

A glitch at Fastly, a popular CDN provider websites like Twitch, Amazon, Spotify facing an outage. Fastly has also updated its Status page confirming that it is facing an outage.

Fastly is an American cloud computing services provider.

It describes its network as an 'edge cloud platform', which is designed to help developers extend their core cloud infrastructure to the edge of the network, closer to users.

The Fastly edge cloud platform includes their content delivery network (CDN), image optimization, video and streaming, cloud security, and load balancing services.

A content delivery network is an arrangement that allows customer websites to store data such as images and videos on various mirror servers across countries so that the data is closer to users, and thus shows up faster.

Customers rely on Fastly and its rivals to host and protect their website data from denial-of-service attacks and disruption from spikes in traffic.

CHIME telescope yields unprecedented results

Scientists have assembled the largest collection of fast radio bursts (FRBs) in the telescope's first FRB catalogue with the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment (CHIME) Collaboration, which include researchers at the Pune-based Tata Institute for Fundamental Research (TIFR) and the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA).

CHIME is an interferometric radio telescope. It is located in British Columbia, Canada.

It consists of four antennas consisting of 100 x 20 metre cylindrical parabolic reflectors with 1024 dual-polarization radio receivers suspended on a support above them.

The antenna receives radio waves from hydrogen in space at frequencies in the 400–800 MHz range.

While catching sight of an FRB is considered a rare thing in the field of radio astronomy, prior to the CHIME project, radio astronomers had only caught sight of around 140 bursts in their scopes since the first FRB was spotted in 2007.

ESA launched the Mission 'EnVision' to study the planet Venus

The European Space Agency (ESA) announced that it has selected EnVision as its next orbiter that will visit Venus sometime in the 2030s.

EnVision is an ESA led mission with contributions from NASA. It is likely to be launched sometime in the 2030s.

The earliest launch opportunity for EnVision is 2031, followed by 2032 and 2033. Once launched on an Ariane 6 rocket, the spacecraft will take about 15 months to reach Venus and will take 16 more months to achieve orbit circularisation.

The spacecraft will carry a range of instruments to study the planet's atmosphere and surface, monitor trace gases in the atmosphere and analyse its surface composition. A radar provided by NASA will help to image and map the surface.

At the core of the ESA's mission is the question of how Earth and Venus evolved so differently from each other considering that they are roughly of the same size and composition.

ESA to develop World's First Wooden Satellite called WISA Woodsat

A Finnish company called Arctic Astronautics is working on sending the world's first wooden satellite to space by the end of this year from New Zealand. It has sensors that have been developed by the European Space Agency (ESA).

The satellite will be launched to test the applicability of wooden materials such as plywood in spacecraft structures. Mission will expose wooden materials to extreme space conditions like heat, cold, vacuum and radiation.

Wooden satellite will be launched to space by end of 2021 with a Rocket Lab Electron rocket. It will be launched from Mahia Peninsula launch complex in New Zealand. Satellite has been designed and built in Finland.

Satellite will orbit at around 500-600 km altitude in polar Sun-synchronous orbit. It is a 10x10x10 cm nano satellite which was built up using standardised boxes and surface panels of plywood, which is usually found in hardware store and are used to make furniture.

IITs Ropar developed the first electrical free CPAP device Jeevan Vayu

IIT Ropar recently developed a device 'Jivan Vayu' which can be used as a substitute for a CPAP machine. Dr Khushboo Rakha, Assistant Professor, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering developed the device at the Advanced Materials and Design Lab of IIT Ropar.

The device is the nation's first such device that functions even without electricity and is adapted to both kinds of oxygen generation units like O2 cylinders and oxygen pipelines in hospitals.

'Jivan Vayu' can deliver high flow oxygen (20–60 LPM) while maintaining a continuous positive pressure of up to 20 cm H₂O.

The device is designed to maintain an FiO₂ of above 40% with a PEEP (positive end-expiratory pressure) of 5-20 cm H₂O.

IIT Delhi to establish transportation research and injury prevention centre

Indian Institutes of Technology, Delhi announced to establish a new centre named 'Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Centre (TRIP-C)' by converting the 'Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Programme (TRIPP)'.

The TRIPP that has been running at the institute since 2002 as an interdisciplinary programme and founded by late Prof. Dinesh Mohan, a world-renowned expert on traffic safety will be converted to a centre.

The areas of research and study will include road planning and design interventions associated with traffic safety, road-user behaviour associated with traffic safety and sustainable transport systems and safety aspects of new vehicle technology in mixed traffic.

TRIP-C would offer academic programmes in the field of transportation and road safety to train professionals who are equipped with the skills for developing and maintaining safe transport infrastructure, including the vulnerable road users.

The new centre will offer a 'Master of Science (MS) Research' programme, which would train the students/ professionals in the field of the transportation safety.

TRAI launched TV Channel Selector web portal

A TV Channel Selector web portal has been launched by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for consumers who could not access its mobile phone app of the same name due to lack of a smartphone.

The portal has all the existing features of the app. With the help of this portal subscribers can choose a preferred channel of interest and remove the unwarranted. The portal also allows the subscriber to modify existing subscriptions.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), in March 2017, notified the New Regulatory Framework for Broadcasting and Cable services. The new framework came into effect on 29th December 2018.

The new framework promotes consumer choice and enables subscribers to select television channels they want to watch.

The role of animal serum in making of vaccines

The Central Government of India recently issued a clarification stating that Covaxin, the Covid-19 vaccine developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, did not contain the serum of a newborn calf.

This was in response to discussions on the social media about the presence of calf serum in Covaxin.

In the clarification, the government reiterated the well-known use of calf serum, as also serum extracted from other animals, in the development of vaccines.

These are needed to grow the disease-causing virus, bacteria or other pathogens in the laboratory, but do not themselves become an ingredient of the vaccine.

According to the website of the Food and Drug Administration of the United States, cow components are used mainly because cows are large animals, easily available, and rich in some of the useful chemicals and enzymes.

Historically, animal serum has been used in the development of vaccines in other ways as well.

The use of horse serum as an antibody supplement in diphtheria vaccine is more than 100 years old. Horses used to be injected with small doses of bacteria that caused diphtheria so that they could develop antibodies.

According to IIT Indore, Aloe-vera may be useful in making memory chips

Indian Institute of Technology Indore recently conducted a study that found that the popular succulent plant aloe vera known for its properties to soothe sunburns and other skin issues and even for improving digestive and oral health.

Synthetic chemicals are used for making data storage devices like memory chips.

PhD student Tanushree Ghosh carried out the study along with Suchita Kandpal, Chanchal Rani, Manushree Tanwar, Devesh Kumar Pathak and Anjali Choudhary.

IMD to install seven new doppler radars in Maharashtra

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced to install seven new doppler radars in Maharashtra, including Mumbai.

Doppler radars of varying frequencies — S-band, C-band and X-band — are commonly used by the IMD to detect and track the movement of weather systems, cloud bands and gauge rainfall over its coverage area of about 500 km.

The radars guide meteorologists, particularly in times of extreme weather events like cyclones and associated heavy rainfall.

With the radar observations, updated every 10 minutes, forecasters can follow the development of weather systems as well as their varying intensities, and accordingly predict weather events and their impact.

An X-band radar is used to detect thunderstorms and lightning whereas C-band guides at the time of cyclone tracking.

Researchers discovered antibodies of Nipah virus in bats

Researchers of Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Institute of Virology have found the presence of antibodies against the Nipah virus (NiV) in some bat species from a cave in Mahabaleshwar.

The survey was done for studying the spread of NiV in Indian bat species. Two bat species, Leschenault's rousette and common pipistrelle, were trapped using mist nets.

Blood, throat, and rectal swab samples were collected onsite from anaesthetised bats. Researchers found both the virus and antibodies in these bat.

India has witnessed four episodes of NiV outbreaks, with case fatality rate ranging from 65 per cent to 100 per cent.

The first NiV outbreak was reported in West Bengal's Siliguri district in 2001. An outbreak reported in Calicut district in Kerala killed 18 people in 2018, followed by another outbreak in the state in 2019.

Southeast Asian countries and some Indian states have been identified as potential hotspots for the NiV disease.

NiV is one of the top-10 priority list pathogens identified by the World Health Organization. As of now, there are no medicines or vaccines for the disease.

DRDO successfully test fired Enhanced Pinaka Rocket

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired extended range version of indigenously developed Pinaka rocket from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL).

Twenty-five Enhanced Pinaka Rockets were launched in quick succession against targets at different ranges.

All the mission objectives were met during the launches. The enhanced range version of Pinaka Rocket System can destroy targets at distances up to 45 kms.

The rocket system has been developed jointly by Pune based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).

DRDO successfully test-fired the subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay'

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay'.

Nirbhay is a long-range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile designed and developed in India by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) which is under DRDO.

The missile can be launched from multiple platforms and is capable of carrying conventional and nuclear warheads. It is

currently deployed in limited numbers in LAC during standoff with China.

Nirbhay is powered by a solid rocket booster for take-off which is developed by Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL).

Upon reaching the required velocity and height, a Turbofan engine in the missile takes over for further propulsion.

The missile is guided by an inertial navigation system developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI) and a radio altimeter for the height determination.

Microsoft officially launched next generation operating system Windows 11

Tech giant Microsoft officially launched its new Windows operating system 'Windows 11' which is being called as the "next generation" of Windows.

Windows 11 is special because it focuses on a new user interface, a new Windows Store, and improvements to performance, including a centre-aligned Taskbar and Start button.

One of the unique features of Windows 11 is that it will support Android apps via Amazon's app store. It will work better in touch mode as well.

Windows 11 operating system (OS) will be available as a free upgrade for Windows 10 users in late 2021, as long as the user has a compatible PC that meets the requirements of Microsoft's new operating system.

Windows 11 OS will work on PCs having a processor that has two or more cores and a clock speed of 1GHz or higher.

PCs having Intel's sixth and seventh-generation processors will not be eligible to use Windows 11.

ARDE develops life-saving 'Canopy Severance System'

Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune along with High Energy Material Research Laboratory (HEMRL) has made a state-of-the-art Canopy Severance System (CSS), which provides a safe escape path for a pilot operating an aircraft in case of an emergency.

The escape system has been designed for the indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas and Trainer Aircraft, HJT-36 Aircraft and HTT-40 Aircraft.

All modern aircraft are equipped with a Canopy Severance System (CSS) for a safe passage by pre-weakening/severing the canopy to facilitate the smooth escape of the pilot in a swift manner.

The Canopy Severance System (CSS) is a life-saving device that helps in the safe ejection of a fighter aircraft pilot in a time of distress.

DRDO initiates the trials of advanced stealth SWiFT drone

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has initiated the ground trials of SWiFT, 1-ton All Up Weight (AUW) Technological Demonstrator for the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (Stealth Bomber).

The trials will be conducted on the first assembled prototype, which will be involved in a series of a low, medium, and high-speed taxi testing to fathom aircraft's performance and instrumentation by a ground control station to

ascertain the functionality of the unmanned vehicle when it reaches a high speed.

SWiFT has been powered by an NPO Saturn 36MT turboprop engine, which is manufactured by NPO Saturn Russia, for powering advanced trainers, light attack aircraft, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) that will be later replaced by Gas Turbine Research Establishment's (GTRE) Small Turbo Fan Engine (STFE).

SWiFT is an advanced technology project, which prepares the Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) which enables consistent, uniform discussions of technical maturity across different types of technology.

Additionally, SWiFT's validated technologies will be used in India's Ghatak stealth flying wing combat drone-powered.

Amazon acquired encrypted messaging application "Wickr"

Amazon acquired encrypted messaging application "Wickr", the Signal-like encrypted messaging services were primarily used by the government agencies in the United States.

Wickr is primarily designed for government agencies, military, enterprise and individuals.

The messaging app which was founded by Robert Stata, Kara Coppa, Christopher Howell, Nico Sell, York Sell in 2012, has apps based on different customer needs.

The app lets users exchange end-to-end encrypted and content-expiring messages, including photos, videos, and file attachments.

Wickr has several apps including Wickr Pro, Wickr RAM, and Wickr Enterprise, Wickr Me. WickrRAM

was specifically designed keeping in the mind the military.

It is believed that the app stays secure even in the harshest environment whereas the Wickr Enterprise was created for companies with larger workforces.

DRDO successfully flight tests New Generation Agni P Ballistic Missile

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested a New Generation Nuclear Capable Ballistic Missile Agni P from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha, Balasore.

Agni P is a new generation advanced variant of Agni class of missiles. It is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 kms.

Various telemetry and radar stations positioned along the eastern coast tracked and monitored the missile.

The missile followed textbook trajectory, meeting all mission objectives with high level of accuracy.

First-of-its-kind initiative to advance deep tech-based research in India

SERB-DST partners with Intel India to launch first-of-its-kind initiative to advance deep tech-based research in India.

The opportunities will be offered by the first-of-its-kind research initiative called 'Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (FIRE)' launched by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB).

SERB-FIRE is a novel initiative to bring together industry and academia on a common platform to

exchange ground-breaking ideas and co-promote innovative research.

The FIRE program is a joint government and industry initiative with a co-funding mechanism to promote innovative technology solutions and strengthen academic research through collaboration with key research and development (R&D) organizations in India.

The program intends to select highly impactful research projects in every cycle (typically once or twice a year), which have breakthrough potential at a national or global level. It will support the best researchers in academia with funding, mentoring, and industry connect.

SOCIETY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme Expanded

On account of the disruptions caused by the second wave of COVID 19 pandemic to businesses across various sectors of the economy, Government has further enlarged the scope of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

Under ECLGS 4.0, a 100% guarantee cover is being offered to loans up to Rs.2 crore to hospitals/nursing homes/clinics/medical colleges for setting up on-site oxygen generation plants, interest rate is capped at 7.5%.

Additional ECLGS assistance of upto 10% of the outstanding as on February 29, 2020 to borrowers covered under ECLGS 1.0, in tandem with restructuring as per RBI guidelines of May 05, 2021;

Current ceiling of Rs. 500 Cr. of loan outstanding for eligibility under ECLGS 3.0 to be removed, subject to maximum additional ECLGS assistance to each borrower being limited to 40% or Rs.200 crore, whichever is lower;

Civil Aviation sector to be eligible under ECLGS 3.0. Validity of ECLGS extended to 30.09.2021 or till guarantees for an amount of Rs.3 lakh crore are issued. Disbursement under the scheme permitted up to 31.12.2021.

Detailed operational guidelines in this regard are being separately issued by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC).

Maratha community can take benefits under 10% EWS quota

The Maharashtra government announced that members of the Maratha community would be accommodated in the 10% quota for Economically Weaker Section. An order was issued by the General Administration Department of the state government.

In a bid to extend relief to the Maratha community in the State, the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra extended the benefits of reservation for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) to the Socially and Economically Backward Class (SEBC).

Previously, the government had decided that the Maratha community could not take advantage of the 10% EWS category as Maratha reservation was in force in the State.

The Supreme Court, however, scrapped the SEBC reservation in jobs and education, making it possible for the State government to extend the benefit of the EWS quota to the Marathas.

As per the government resolution, a person fulfilling the criterion for EWS would be eligible for 10% reservation in educational institutes, barring minority institutes.

This would also be applied for State government recruitment. The resolution said the reservation would be above the existing reservation.

It also stated that the benefit would be available from September 9, 2020, when the apex court brought an interim stay on the reservation, to May 5, 2021, when the final verdict was announced.

Split rural jobs scheme wages into separate categories for SCs, STs

The Centre has asked the States to split wage payments under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme into separate categories for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and others from this financial year.

Government of India has decided to provide separate budget heads for SC and ST categories under MGNREGS from the financial year 2021-22 for wage payment.

The existing system for wages under the scheme is for only one type that is there is no category wise provision of wage payment.

Workers' rights advocates said this will complicate the payment system, and expressed fears that it may lead to a reduction in scheme funding.

Nearly 10,000 children in country need immediate care and protection

Bal Swaraj recently shows details of nearly 10,000 children in the country in immediate need

of care and protection. They include children aged between zero and 17 orphaned or abandoned during the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has created an online tracking portal "Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care)"

NCPCR has developed it in furtherance to its function as a monitoring authority under section 109 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and in view of the growing problem related to children affected by COVID-19

This portal will do online tracking and real-time monitoring of Childrens who have lost both its parents or either of the parent during COVID-19 and are in need of care and protection under Section 2(14) of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

It will track children affected by COVID-19 right from the production of children before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to the restoration of the children to their parent/guardian/relative and its subsequent follow-up. The data will be filled in the portal by the District officers and State officers for each child.

Expert panel to fix minimum pay and national floor wage

An expert group has been constructed by the Labour and Employment Ministry to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of minimum wages and national floor for minimum wages.

This is the second expert committee on minimum wages formed by the government within the last two years.

The recently constructed expert group has been constituted for a period of three years and is

chaired by Ajit Mishra, Director, Institute of Economic Growth.

It includes Tarika Chakraborty, IIM Calcutta; Anushree Sinha, Senior Fellow, NCAER; Vibha Bhalla, Joint Secretary; H Srinivas, Director General, VGNLI as the members and DPS Negi, Senior Labour and Employment Advisor as the Member Secretary.

Under the Code on Wages, which is yet to be enforced, a National Floor Level Minimum Wage will be set by the Centre to be revised every five years, while states will fix minimum wages for their regions, which cannot be lower than the floor wage.

Bihar reserves 33% seats in engineering, medical colleges for girls

Recently, the Chief Minister of Bihar asked the officials of the science and technology and the health and medical education departments to take necessary steps to reserve minimum 33.3% seats for girls in all engineering and medical colleges.

The 33.3% quota for girls would be introduced in all engineering and medical colleges across the state from the coming academic session (2021-22).

With this, Bihar will become the first state in the country to provide 33.3% quota to girls in the technical colleges.

This will increase the number of girl students in the field of engineering and medical areas.

The state currently has 38 government-run and 17 private-run engineering colleges. All these colleges will come under the command of the proposed Bihar Engineering University.

The state has nine government and six private medical colleges. Works are going on to open 11 more medical colleges across the state. All these medical colleges would come under the command of the proposed 'Bihar University of Medical Sciences.

SAGE initiative and SAGE portal to support India's elderly

The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine) initiative and SAGE portal for elderly persons.

The SAGE portal will be a "one-stop access" of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups. The SAGE portal will be opened for applications from 5th June, 2021 onwards.

The start-ups will be selected on the basis of innovative products and services, which they should be able to provide across sectors such as health, housing, care centers, apart from technological access linked to finances, food and wealth management, and legal guidance.

The SAGE portal has been prepared and finalised in record time by Mr. Chandrasekhar Buddha, CEO, NEAT, M/o Education along with Dr. Elengovan, Assistant Innovation Director, M/o Education.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment will act as a facilitator for this scheme. A fund of upto Rs.1 crore as one-time equity will be granted to each selected start-up. An amount of Rs 100 crore has been assigned for the promotion of the silver economy. An allocation of Rs 25 crores has been made for the SAGE project in the current financial year i.e 2021-22.

UNICEF reaches coronavirus vaccine supply agreement with Moderna

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reached an agreement with vaccine manufacturer Moderna to supply their international vaccination efforts against the Novel Corona virus.

The vaccines will be supplied to UNICEF's COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility.

The vaccines are expected to be delivered in the final quarter of 2021 and will be allocated in a way that reflects the program's value of equity in access.

UNICEF also noted that it has signed four other supply deals for Corona virus vaccines, including agreements with the Serum Institute of India, Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Human Vaccine.

WHO Nomenclature on the variant of SARS-CoV-2

The World Health Organization (WHO) introduced new a systematic nomenclature of various variants of the coronavirus using Greek alphabets (alpha, beta, gamma, delta etc.) to simplify public discussions and also help remove stigma from the names.

Alpha variant: B.1.1.7 variant spotted in the UK in September 2020

Beta variant: B.1.351 variant first found in South Africa in May 2020

Gamma variant: P.1 variant first spotted in Brazil in November 2020

Epsilon variant: B.1.427/ B.1.429 variant spotted in USA in March 2020

Zeta variant: P.2 variant found in Brazil in April 2020.

ETA variant: B.1.525 variant found in multiple countries in December 2020

Theta variant: P.3 variant spotted in Philippines in January 2021

IOTA variant: B.1.526 variant found in USA in November 2020

Centre releases a model Panchayat Citizens Charter

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) prepared a Model Panchayat Citizens Charter/ framework for delivery of the services across the 29 sectors, aligning actions with localised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Aim of Establishing a Citizen Charter Is to Provide Services to the People in a Time Bound Manner, Redressing Their Grievances and Improving Their Lives.

It is expected that the Panchayats will utilise this framework to draw up a Citizens Charter and adopt it through a resolution of the Gram Sabha by 15th August, 2021.

Panchayats are responsible for delivery of basic services as enshrined under article 243G of the Constitution of India, specifically in the areas of Health & Sanitation, Education, Nutrition, Drinking Water.

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) is an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development.

It is a premier national centre of excellence in rural development and Panchayati Raj. It builds capacities of rural development functionaries, elected representatives of PRIs, bankers, NGOs and other stakeholders

India ranks 117 on 17 SDGs adopted as 2030 agenda

India ranks 117 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 193 United Nations member states in 2015.

India ranks below four South Asian countries - Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, it said. The overall SDG score of India is 61.9 out of 100.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, which provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

There are 17 SDGs which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.

The 17 SDGs adopted by UN member states are SDG1- no poverty, SDG 2-zero hunger, SDG3- good health and well-being, SDG4- quality education, SDG 5- gender equality, SDG 6- clean water and sanitation, SDG 7- affordable and clean energy, SDG 8 – decent work and economic growth, SDG 9- industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 10 – reduced inequalities, SDG 11- sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12- responsible consumption and production, SDG 13- climate action, SDG 14- life below water, SDG 15- life on land, SDG 16- peace, justice and strong institutions and lastly SDG 17- strengthening global partnerships for the goals.

Pension norms eased for families of deceased staff

The Union Government has written to all Ministries relaxing the norms for disbursing pension to families of deceased employees considering their urgent need of funds for livelihood.

The authorities have been told to disburse the provisional family pension immediately after receiving the claim with a death certificate.

Stating that the completion of the process for sanction of family pension and its disbursement through the bank could take some time, the department cited provisions under Rule 80-A of the Central Civil Service (Pension) Rules, 1972.

This rule provided for payment of provisional family pension and also provisional death gratuity, without waiting for forwarding of the family pension case to Pay & Accounts Office (PAO).

Free ration under Garib Kalyan Yojna extended till Diwali

Government of India decided to extend the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) till Diwali.

About 1.3 lakh tonne of wheat and rice have been provided to 2.6 crore beneficiaries so far in June under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.

The food subsidy incurred for PMGKAY, so far, is more than Rs 9,200 crore for May and June 2021, he was quoted as saying by news agency PTI.

Giving specific about the implementation of the free ration scheme, he said, more than 63.67 lakh tonne foodgrains (around 80 percent of

total PMGKAY allocation for May and June 2021) have been lifted by states and UTs from FCI (Food Corporation of India) depot.

The government is providing 5kg per person per month to approximately 79.39 crore beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

Nearly 80 lakh tonne foodgrains have to be issued under the PMGKAY scheme. This distribution is over and above the regular allocation to beneficiaries under the food law.

Haryana to create 80 acres of 'Oxi-van'

Haryana state government announced to create 80 acres of 'Oxi-van' (a forest) in Karnal district. It was announced on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, 2021. Oxi-van will consist of 10 types of forests.

In order to promote the promotion, protection, planting of trees on World Environment Day, the Khattar led-Haryana Government has launched four important schemes:

Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme: Under this scheme, a pension amount of Rs 2500 will be provided in name of Pran Vayu Devta to maintain trees above 75 years. This pension would increase each year on the line of old age samman pension.

Panchavati Plantation in Haryana: Under this initiative, plantation will be done in name of Panchvati across the villages in Haryana. It will promote the process of getting natural oxygen from trees. Agro forestry will also be promoted on vacant land under the initiative. Thus, it will increase income of Panchayats in rural areas.

Oxy-Van in Karnal: Oxy Forest was launched on Forest Department land in Mughal Canal, Karnal.

Panchavati, trees of Bel, Amla, Ashoka, Banyan and Peepal were planted. It will be built on 80 acres area.

Oxy-Van in Panchkula: It will be established in Bir Ghaggar on area of one hundred acres in a bid to create Mother Nature's green lungs, for residents of Panchkula, to get in fresh oxygen. Rs One crore has been sanctioned for this initiative.

Every household in North-West India to get tap water connection by 2022

Centre recently decided that in the 5 North-Western States and UTs i.e., Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission will be expedited and every rural household will be provided with tap water connections by 2022, instead of by 2024.

To enable these States/ UTs to achieve this goal by 2022, Union Minister of Jal Shakti has approved Central allocation of Rs. 8,216.25 Crore in 2021-22. This is more than 4 times of the allocation to these States/ UTs in 2020-21.

With this massive increase in allocation, and speed of implementation, these 5 States/UTs are set to achieve 'Har Ghar Jal' status by 2022.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi announced Jal Jeevan Mission(JJM) on 15th August, 2019 to provide safe piped drinking water to every rural household in the country by 2024.

Delhi govt hospital banned nursing staff from speaking in Malayalam

A Delhi government-run hospital recently banned nursing staff from speaking in Malayalam in the hospital and warned of 'serious action' if they do not talk in English or Hindi.

There are around 300-350 Malayali nursing staff at the hospital [GIPMER] and we always talk to the patients in Hindi.

Malayalam is a Dravidian language spoken. Malayalam has official language status in Kerala, Lakshadweep and Puducherry (Mahé)

It is one of 22 scheduled languages of India and is spoken by 2.88% of Indians. Malayalam was designated a "Classical Language in India" in 2013.

Due to Malayali expatriates in the Persian Gulf, Malayalam is also widely spoken in the Gulf countries.

Rajasthan Govt approved Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Energy Yojana

The draft of the Chief Minister Kisan Mitra Energy Scheme has been approved by the Rajasthan State Government.

Under this scheme, farmers will get benefit in electricity bill and they will be given a grant of one thousand rupees every month in electricity bill.

The benefit of this scheme will be given to the metered agriculture consumers by the state government.

Central and state government employees and income tax payers will not be eligible for the agricultural consumer subsidy amount.

To take advantage of this scheme, the eligible farmers of this scheme will have to link their bank account with Aadhaar.

According to the PTI report, if a farmer consumes less electricity and his bill is less than

one thousand rupees, then the difference between the actual bill and the grant amount will be deposited in his bank account.

Kerala state government launched Smart Kitchen project

The Kerala government announced the introduction of a Smart Kitchen project, which is meant to modernise kitchens and ease the difficulty faced by homemakers in household chores.

It is meant to modernise kitchens and ease the difficulty faced by homemakers in household chores. By enhancing mechanisation in kitchens, women participation in labour could be increased.

It would be implemented through the Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE), a state-run chit fund and lending firm.

Under the scheme, KSFE would give soft loans to women from all walks of life for purchasing household gadgets or equipment.

Members of Kudumbashree, which is Kerala's women empowerment and poverty alleviation scheme, would get preference in purchasing kitchen gadgets under smart kitchen scheme. No collateral would be demanded from Kudumbashree members, as per the initial plan.

Centre allocates Rs. 10870 crore to Uttar Pradesh under 'Jal Jeevan Mission'

The Centre has allocated Rs 10,870 crore to Uttar Pradesh under the Jal Jeevan Mission for 2021-22 with a vision to provide clean tap water to every household.

In 2019-20, the Centre has allocated Rs 1,206 crore, which was increased to Rs 2,571 crore in 2020-21. Thus, this year allocation for implementation of JJM in Uttar Pradesh has increased four-fold.

In Uttar Pradesh there are 2.63 crore households in 97 thousand villages, out of which now 30.04 lakh (11.3 per cent) households have tap water supply in their homes.

Jal Jeevan Mission, is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.

Twitter Campaign for Official Status to Tulu Language

A Twitter campaign demanding official language status for Tulu launched by various Tulu organizations received support from politicians and the public in the coastal belt.

Tulu is a Dravidian language spoken mainly in two coastal districts Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of Karnataka and Kasaragod district of Kerala. The native speakers of Tulu are referred to as Tuluva or Tulu people and the geographical area is unofficially called Tulu Nadu.

The Indian census report of 2011 reported a total of 1,846,427 native Tulu speakers in India. The 2001 census had reported a total of 1,722,768 native speakers.

Separated early from Proto-South Dravidian, Tulu has several features not found in Tamil-Kannada. For example, it has the past perfect and the future perfect, like French or Spanish, but formed without an auxiliary verb.

At present, Tulu is not an official language in the country. Efforts are being made to include Tulu in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

Tulu has a rich oral literature tradition with folk-song forms like paddana, and traditional folk theatre yakshagana. Tulu also has an active tradition of cinema with around 5 to 7 Tulu language movies produced a year.

Odisha approved the recruitment of Transgender in Police

The Odisha government has allowed the transgender community to apply for the posts of constables and sub-inspectors in the state police department.

For the first time, a public advertisement has been issued seeking application from transgender people in government jobs in the state.

As per the transgender persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2016, it prohibits discrimination against a transgender person, including unfair treatment or denial of service in relation to employment, education, healthcare, access to public goods and facilities, etc.

Also, in 2018, the Supreme Court of India decriminalized homosexuality by striking down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, terming it unconstitutional in respect of consensual homosexual sex between adults.

Tribal livelihoods initiative "Sankalp Se Siddhi – Mission Van Dhan"

Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda recently launches the tribal livelihoods initiative "Sankalp Se Siddhi – Mission Van Dhan".

TRIFED now plans to expand its operations through the convergence of various schemes of different Ministries and Departments and launch the various tribal development programs in Mission Mode under “Sankalp Se Siddhi – Mission Van Dhan” for expediting its implementation in a Mission mode.

Through this mission, the establishment of 50,000 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, 3000 Haat Bazaars, 600 Godowns, 200 Mini TRIFOOD Units, 100 Common Facility Centres, 100 TRIFOOD parks, 100 SFURTI clusters, 200 Tribes India retail stores, eCommerce platforms for TRIFOOD and Tribes India brands are being targeted.

During the pandemic, efforts were made for the skill development of the tribal artisans, and 17 training Programs were approved for benefitting 340 tribal artisans and developing 170 new designed products.

Tribal Affairs Ministry launched ‘Aadi Prashikshan Portal’

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the ADI Prashikshan portal and a three-day online training programme on capacity building for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration.

The portal will have a database of trainees, trainers, and resource persons. Further, the trainees can have access to course material even after completion of the training programme from the portal.

The ADI Prashikshan portal has been developed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) and Tribal Research Institute, Odisha.

The ADI Prashikshan portal will be a repository of all the training programmes conducted by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Tribal Research Institute (TRI), Centre of Excellence (COE) and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), upcoming National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI) and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).

Civil Registration System shows uptick in birth

The Census Department of India’s recent Data shows that the birth and death registration with the Civil Registration System (CRS) in India went up considerably in 2019.

The level of registration of births has increased to 92.7 percent in 2019 from 82.4 percent in 2011, likewise the level of registration of deaths has increased from 66.4 percent in 2011 to 92.0 percent in 2019.

While 14 States/Union Territories achieved 100% level of birth registrations, 19 States/Union Territories achieved the same level in cases of death.

Civil Registration System is the process of continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of births and deaths in the country. The Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 (Act No. 18 of 1969) provides for the compulsory registration of births and deaths.

The Sex Ratio (Number of females per thousand males) at birth is an important indicator to map the sex differential of the population. The World Health Organisation estimates that the natural

sex ratio at birth is about 952 females to every 1,000 males.

Govt to establishment of five Divyangta Khel Kendras in country

Government of India recently announced establishment of five Divyangta Khel Kendras in different parts of country.

The decision has been taken looking at the interest towards the sports among the Divyangjan and their good performance in Paralympics.

Through sport, persons with disabilities acquire vital social skills, develop independence, and become empowered to act as agents of change.

Sport is also well-suited to reducing dependence and developing greater independence by helping persons with disabilities to become physically and mentally stronger.

In the year 2016, the Right to Persons with Disabilities Act was brought in, which not only provided more security, but also ensures and protects the fundamental rights of the person with disabilities across the nation.

Ministry of Minority Affairs launched “Jaan Hai To Jahaan Hai” campaign

The Minority Affairs Ministry along with various Socio-Educational Organisations, NGOs and Women Self Help Groups (SGHs) launched an awareness campaign 'Jaan Hai To Jahaan Hai' in rural and remote areas to dispel rumours against the ongoing Covid vaccination drive in the country.

The campaign has launched on 21 June to create awareness on the Covid vaccination programme in rural and remote areas of the country and to

"crush and curb" the rumours and apprehensions, being spread by some vested interests regarding the ongoing drive.

Some vested interests are trying to spread rumours and apprehensions regarding Covid vaccines in some areas of the country. Such elements are enemies of the health and well-being of the people.

Two 'Made in India' Covid vaccines are the result of the hard work of our scientists and it has been proved scientifically that these vaccines are absolutely safe and effective weapons in the fight against Corona.

Odisha launched ‘Ashirbad’ scheme for COVID-19 Orphan Children

Odisha CM launched the Ashirbad scheme which will provide Rs. 2,500 every month to the orphaned kids and Rs. 1,500 to those who have lost an earning parent to the virus.

Kids moved to welfare homes in the absence of a caretaker will also be eligible for the scheme - applicable from April 2020 and will get an additional Rs. 1,000 every month.

Till the children turn 18, the amounts will be transferred to the bank accounts of their guardians. However, adopted kids are not eligible for the scheme.

If a relative who has taken a child's responsibility is eligible for a house under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana or Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana, out-of-turn allotment will be made.

India responds to the concerns raised by UN's Human Rights Council

India recently responded the concerns raised by Special Procedures Branch of the Human Rights

Council regarding India's Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The Government of India, in exercising its powers under section 87 (2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000, and in supersession of the earlier Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011.

It also framed the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ('new IT Rules') and notified the same on 25 February, 2021.

The Rules are designed to empower ordinary users of social media. The victims of abuse at social media platforms shall have a forum for redressal of their grievances.

'Sakshama' COVID helpline for specially abled rolled out in Bengaluru

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and state COVID Task Force recently rolled out Sakshama COVID helpline for specially abled in Bengaluru.

This dedicated COVID helpline 0120 690 4999 can be used by specially abled persons to seek the benefits of Government welfare programmes.

The helpline will be of aid to specially abled people for BPL card or even for job opportunities.

The state Government has earmarked four per cent of budget allocation for the welfare of the specially abled persons.

Mizoram announced an incentive for having maximum number of children

The Sports Minister of Mizoram has announced a cash reward of ₹1 lakh to a living parent with the

highest number of children in his constituency in order to encourage the population.

Mizoram's population was 1,091,014, according to the 2011 census. The state covers an area of approximately 21,087 square kilometres.

With only 52 persons per square kilometre, Mizoram has the second-lowest population density in the country next to Arunachal Pradesh, which has a population density of 17 persons per sq km. The national average is 382 per sq km.

Mizoram's neighbour Assam, however, is treading a different path. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recently announced that his government will gradually implement a two-child policy for availing benefits under certain schemes funded by the state.

West Bengal approved "Student Credit Card scheme" in their state

The West Bengal government launched the Students Credit Card Scheme which shall come into effect from June 30, 2021.

This scheme shall enable students to seek credit up to Rs. 10 lakh without requiring any personal guarantor.

The state government will function as the guarantor instead. This scheme is primarily dedicated towards female students and those belonging to minority categories.

By availing this scheme, students will be getting the opportunity to pursue a variety of courses depending on their choice.

These courses include diplomas, postgraduate programmes, post-doctoral (PhD) courses etc. It is essentially, a soft-loan policy with adequate

credit-limit and loan-refund time given to students.

Along with this, various other schemes have also been launched by students who belong to minority categories.

Mission Youth to select 2500 students for Competitive Examinations' coaching

Mission Youth J&K has initiated process to support more than 2500 students every year for undergoing competitive examination coaching to prepare them for competing at national level in various examinations.

Under this initiative deserving students will be provided scholarship assistance for competitive examinations coaching.

This will include UPSC Civil Services Examination, J&K PSC Combined Services Competitive Examination, Judicial Service, Engineering Services and other All India level examinations.

Aspirants qualifying preliminary competitive examination shall be provided scholarship/ sponsorship for Mains examination coaching in best institutions with proven track record and having best faculty.

National Convention on Prevention of Maternal, Adolescent and Childhood Obesity

NITI Aayog recently convened the National Convention on Prevention of Maternal, Adolescent and Childhood Obesity under the chairmanship of Dr. V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog and Co-chairmanship of Dr. R Hemalatha, Director, Nutrition Institute of India.

In the National Consultation global experts, representatives from UN bodies, central ministries and national research institutions presented their evidence regarding increasing prevalence of obesity and presented best practices for obesity reduction.

All panellists expressed unanimous need to address this issue on a priority basis, with a resounding emphasis on better mass communication around encouraging physical activity, healthy eating and lifestyle.

A need for a whole of government and a whole of society approach was emphasised in tackling the twin challenge of obesity and under.

An urgent need for adopting strategies related to fiscal measures, regulating front-of-package labelling, promoting healthy diet, physical activity and lifestyle options emerged as key themes for future deliberations and actions.

Government launched website for "Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan"

The Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot launched the website for the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan(NMBA) on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The Day is observed worldwide to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving the goal of a sustainable world free of substance abuse.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, which is the nodal ministry for Drug Demand Reduction, implements various programmes for the drug abuse prevention across the country.

This year, to commemorate the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

organized a 6-day Nasha Mukta Bharat Summit which ended with the e-launch of several initiatives undertaken by the Ministry for the prevention of Drug Abuse.

Captchas accessibility of High Court to physically disabled people

All High Court websites now have captchas which are accessible to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The task of making the digital infrastructure of the Indian judicial system more accessible to persons with disabilities has been a core component of the work of the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India.

These captchas serve as entry points to access several essential facets of a court website, such as judgments/orders, cause-lists and checking the status of cases.

Many High Court websites were hitherto exclusively using visual captchas inaccessible to the visually challenged, making it impossible for them to access such content independently.

In coordination with all High Courts, the e-Committee has now ensured that visual captchas are accompanied by text/ audio captchas making the website content accessible to the visually challenged.

FM announced relief package worth Rs 6,28,993 crore against COVID-19

Union Finance Ministry has announced stimulus package of six lakh 28 thousand 993 crore rupees to boost economy during the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced several economic relief measures amid COVID pandemic including eight economic relief

measures, of which four are absolutely new and one is specific to health infrastructure.

The Finance Minister also announced 1.5 lakh crore rupees for Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, ECLGS which was launched as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Package in May, 2020.

The total financial implication over it will be 100 crore rupees. Sitharaman announced extension of Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana from 30th of June, 2021 to 31st of March, 2022.

SPORTS

Pooja Rani clinches second gold in a row in Asian Boxing Championships

India boxer Pooja Rani (75kg) successfully defended her title as she outpunched in-form Mavluda Movlonova to hand the country its first gold at the 2021 ASBC Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai.

Earlier Mary Kom and Lalbuatsaihi finished their campaigns with silver medals after going down fighting in their respective semi-finals.

The 19-member Indian contingent claimed their best-ever show by securing record 15 medals while surpassing their previous highest of 13 medals (2 gold, 4 silver and 7 bronze) from the 2019 edition in Bangkok.

Eight Indian pugilists Simranjit Kaur (60kg), Vikas Krishan (69kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69kg), Jaismine (57kg), Sakshi Chaudhary (54kg), Monika (48kg), Saweety (81kg) and Varinder Singh (60kg) secured bronze medals with their semi-final finish at the event which witnessed the presence of 150 boxers from 17 countries including strong

boxing nations such as India, Uzbekistan, Philippines and Kazakhstan.

India gets 8 new flying training academies

India is set to get 8 new Flying Training Academies under the liberalised Flying Training Organisation (FTO) policy of the Airports Authority of India (AAI). These academies will be set up at Belagavi, Jalgaon, Kalaburagi, Khajuraho and Lilabari.

The set-up of these 8 FTOs is aimed at making India a global flying training hub and to prevent the exodus of Indian cadets to foreign FTOs.

Additionally, these FTOs will also be designed to cater the flying training requirements of cadets in India's neighbouring countries.

To make FTOs attractive for bidders, AAI reduced the minimum annual rental significantly to Rs.15 lacs. Furthermore, the concept of airport royalty was scrapped to make these ventures business-friendly.

Sunil Chhetri becomes the second-highest active international goalscorer

Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri becomes the second-highest active international goalscorer as he overtook Argentina star Lionel Messi.

Chhetri achieved the feat when he struck a brace to help India defeat Bangladesh 2-0 in the ongoing FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, and AFC Asian Cup China Qualifiers at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium at Al Sadd Club in Doha.

The 36-year-old Chhetri scored both his goals in the second half of the match as he netted the

ball into the goalpost in the 79th and 92nd minutes.

Chhetri has now scored 74 goals, two more than Messi, and is only behind Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo (103) in the list of active footballers with the most international goals. Ali Mabkhout is third on the list having scored 73 goals.

Brisbane is selected to the host of 2032 Olympic Games

Australian City Brisbane is selected to the host of 2032 Olympics. Brisbane is set to be the first Olympics host selected unopposed under a new system to streamline and speed up bidding campaigns.

The Australian city was put on the fast track to victory in February when the IOC named it as the preferred candidate.

The Brisbane bid was led by IOC vice president John Coates.

The modern Olympic Games are leading international sporting events featuring summer and winter sports competitions in which thousands of athletes from around the world participate in a variety of competitions.

Aruna Tanwar becomes First-ever Indian Taekwondo Athlete to Qualify for Tokyo Paralympics

Aruna Tanwar became the first Indian Taekwondo athlete to take part in Tokyo Paralympic.

The player is from village Dinod of district Bhiwani in Haryana. She has been awarded a wild card entry for the upcoming tournament.

The 21-yr-old received the wild card based on her exemplary past performances. She has also been ranked 4th in the world the women's U-49 category.

Tokyo Paralympics are an upcoming major international multi-sport event for athletes with disabilities governed by the International Paralympic Committee.

Scheduled as the 16th Summer Paralympic Games, they are scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan between 24 August and 5 September 2021

Sports Ministry launched Central Athlete Injury Management System

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports recently launched the Central Athlete Injury Management System (CAIMS) for streamlining the sports medicine and rehabilitation support offered to the athletes.

It is a first-of-its-kind initiative by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

It is for streamlining the sports medicine and rehabilitation support offered to the athletes for Olympics 2024 and beyond.

CAIMS aims to provide the best of sports injury management support nearest to the athlete's geographical location. CAIMS will help to standardize appropriate injury treatment protocol for athletes across the country.

It will start with support for athletes who are a part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) development group expected to participate in 2024 and beyond.

CAIMS will have the following four structures: Athlete Wellness Cell, On-Field Sports Medicine

Experts, National Resource Referral Teams and a Central Core Team.

The core committee of CAIMS includes eminent top of the line experts such as Dr. SKS Marya, Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala, Dr. BV Srinivas and Shrikant Iyengar.

Barbora Krajsikova won the women's singles and Double title in French Open Tennis

Czech Barbora Krejckikova completed a singles-doubles title sweep at the French Open when she lifted the women's doubles trophy with compatriot Katerina Siniakova, beating Iga Swiatek and Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

Krejckikova became the first player to win both the women's singles and doubles title in Paris since Frenchwoman Mary Pierce completed the feat in 2000.

The 25-year-old Krejckikova, who will climb to 15th in singles following her maiden Grand Slam singles title will return as the world number one doubles player when the rankings are updated.

Swiatek, the 2020 singles champion, and Mattek-Sands were playing only their third tournament together and found the going tough against Siniakova's nimble movement and skilful netplay and Krejckikova's strong performance from the baseline.

Novak Djokovic won 'French Open Men's Singles Title 2021

Novak Djokovic won his 19th Grand Slam title after coming back from 2 sets down against 5th seed Stefanos Tsitsipas in the French Open 2021 men's singles final at Roland Garros in Paris.

Djokovic clinched glory after downing the spirited Grand Slam final debutant 6-7 (6), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

Novak Djokovic, who played 18 sets since his fourth-round match, became the first man in the Open Era to win all 4 Grand Slams at least twice.

He is only the third man to do so after Roy Emerson and Rod Laver.

Novak Djokovic also broke the 'Nadal jinx' at the French Open as he became the first man to win the Roland Garros title after outclassing the clay-court King in Paris.

Venu Mankad become the 7th Indian player to be inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

The International Cricket Council (ICC) recently inducted 10 players into its Hall of Fame, including the great Indian all-rounder Vinu Mankad.

Mankad became the seventh Indian cricketer to be inducted into the Hall of Fame after Sachin Tendulkar, Sunil Gavaskar, Rahul Dravid, Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble and Bishan Singh Bedi.

Mankad, who died in 1978, played 44 Test matches for India from 1946 to 1959. He scored 2,109 runs at an average of 31.47 with five centuries and six fifties.

He also picked up 162 wickets with his left-arm spin at an average of 32.32, with 8 five-wicket innings hauls and two ten-wicket match hauls.

Saba Sakr becomes the first female boxing coach of Egypt

36-year-old Saba Sakr has become the first female boxing coach of Egypt. In the Egyptian

city of Beni Suef, a small one-room gym appears to be open only twice a week.

Women are prohibited from doing such work in the country's capital Cairo, but in this agrarian area located 100 km from the capital, Saba is running this center and training youth in Egypt's traditional and socially restricted society.

In Upper Egypt it is not acceptable for women to coach such a sport. But after seeing her dedication and hard work, everyone agreed. Saba says that she started this gym by renting a small room.

BCCI lifted the life ban imposed on Ankit Chavan

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has recently lifted the life ban on former Mumbai spinner Ankeet Chavan.

Chavan, who has represented Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League, was banned for life in 2013, along with team-mates S Sreesanth and Ajit Chandila for alleged involvement in spot-fixing.

The BCCI slapped a life ban on Chavan in 2013 for alleged involvement in spot-fixing in the Indian Premier League.

The BCCI is the governing body for cricket in India and is under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

Weightlifting at the Tokyo Olympics over past doping cases banned

Romania (Switzerland) has been banned from competing in weightlifting at the Tokyo Olympics over past doping cases, the International Weightlifting Federation ruled.

The Romanian Weightlifting Federation was issued a one-year ban from competition over five doping cases. Those included disqualifications for all four of Romania's weightlifters from the 2012 Olympics after various banned substances were found in later retesting of their samples.

One of those athletes, Gabriel Sincaian, also lost a medal from the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro for another failed drug test.

Romania becomes the fourth country barred from the Tokyo weightlifting competition after Egypt, Malaysia and Thailand, which were also excluded over doping-related issues.

Another 15 countries can send only a limited number of athletes to Tokyo over past doping, including major powers Russia, Iran and Turkey.

Lauren Hubbard will be the first transgender to participate in the Olympics

The New Zealand weightlifter Laurel Hubbard is poised to make history and headlines, as well as significant controversy, after being confirmed as the first transgender athlete to compete at an Olympic Games.

The 43-year-old, who will be the fourth oldest weightlifter at an Olympics, is regarded as a genuine medal contender in the women's super heavyweight 87kg-plus category in Tokyo.

But while her inclusion has been welcomed by trans groups, it has also been questioned by those who believe she has unfair advantages in strength and power, having gone through male puberty before transitioning in 2012.

Competing before her gender transition, Hubbard set New Zealand junior records in 1998

in the newly established M105+ division with snatch 135 kg, clean & jerk 170 kg, total 300 kg. Those records were later surpassed by David Liti.

Tajinderpal Singh put player qualifies for Tokyo Olympics 2020

Tajinderpal Singh Toor has earned direct qualification to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after breaching the Olympic qualifying standard.

It was certainly a day to remember for the 26-year-old from Punjab as he not only went past the Olympic qualifying standard but also the National Record and Asian Record twice in the span of minutes.

Tajinder threw a whopping 21.49m to surpass the Olympic qualification standard of 21.10m, and ensure a safe passage to the Tokyo Games. He then again went past the Olympic mark for the second time with an effort of 21.28m.

Manpreet Singh will lead Indian men's hockey team in Olympics

Midfielder Manpreet Singh was named captain of the 16-member Olympic-bound Indian men's hockey team. This will be Manpreet's third Olympics.

Under Manpreet's captaincy, the Indian team won the Asia Cup in 2017, the Asian Champions Trophy in 2018 and the FIH Series Final in 2019.

The team led by Manpreet also made it to the quarterfinals of the FIH Men's World Cup 2018 in Bhubaneswar.

Harmanpreet, since his senior India debut in 2015, has grown in his role as a drag-flicker and defender. In the absence of Manpreet in 2019, Harmanpreet led the Indian team to victory at the FIH Olympic Test event in Tokyo.

New Zealand won the First ICC World Test Championship 2021

New Zealand won the first ICC World Test Champions after beating India inside the final hour of a nail-biting reserve day.

Started on 1 August 2019, the ICC World Test Championship is a league competition for Test cricket run by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

It is intended to be the premier championship for Test cricket. It is in line with the ICC's goal of having one pinnacle tournament for each of the three formats of international cricket.

The first tournament began with the 2019 Ashes series. In March 2020, matches were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, not resuming before July 2020, with several rounds of matches being postponed or ultimately cancelled.

New Zealand became the first team to qualify for the final, when it was confirmed that the series between South Africa and Australia would not proceed, followed by India.

The inaugural World Test Championship Final was played between India and New Zealand from 18–23 June 2021 at Rose Bowl, Southampton, England.

Despite the opening and fourth day of the final being washed out by rain, New Zealand managed to win in the final session of the reserve day and lifted the first World Test Championship trophy.

India's official Olympic theme song composed and sung by Mohit Chauhan

Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the official theme song of the Indian Olympic Team of Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games composed and sung by Mohit Chauhan.

Mohit Chauhan was also present at the launch of the official Team India kit for the Summer Games. He sang 'Tu Thaan Le' for the dignitaries present at that event.

More than 100 Indian athletes have qualified for the Tokyo Games so far. The games will open on July 23, 2021.

The Olympic Games 2020 is all set to be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan, despite the concerns due to the widespread COVID-19 pandemic.

Tokyo was selected as the host city of the games during the 125th IOC Session in Argentina on 7 September 2013. The upcoming games will mark the second time that Japan has hosted the Summer Olympic Games.

Saurabh Chaudhary won Bronze Medal in ISSF World Cup 2021

Shooter Saurabh Chaudhary got India off the mark as he clinched the bronze medal in men's 10m air pistol at the shooting World Cup in Osijek.

He was the youngest Indian gold medalist at the Asian Games. He had earlier won gold medals and set a new junior world record in the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany.

He is the only Indian shooter to win a gold medal in ISSF World Championship, ISSF World Cup,

Youth Olympic Games, Asian Games and Asian Air Gun Championship.

He broke his own world record with a score of 245.5 and claimed gold in Junior Men 10m Air Pistol at 2018 World Championship in Changwon, Korea.

Zhang Zhizhen becomes first Chinese man to qualify for Wimbledon

Zhang Zhizhen becomes first Chinese man to qualify for Wimbledon in Open Era to play in the main draw at Wimbledon after the world No. 178 booked his place by defeating Argentine Francisco Cerundolo 6-0 6-3 6-7(4) 7-6(6) in the qualifiers.

The 24-year-old is only the fourth Chinese man to play singles in the main draw of a grand slam since the Open Era began in 1968.

No Chinese man has played in the singles since 1959. Wu Di (2013, 2014, 2016), Zhang Ze (2014, 2015) and Li Zhe (2019) have all played at the Australian Open.

It has been something of a mystery why Chinese men have failed to emulate the country's women, who have provided many top players including Li Na who won the French and Australian Open titles before retiring in 2014.

Zhang Zhizhen is currently the only Chinese male player in the top 250 in the ATP rankings.

Abhishek Verma won compound men's individual gold in Archery World Cup

Abhishek Verma created history by becoming the first man to win two World Cup gold medals in individual compound archery.

Verma won the gold in the men's individual compound event at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Paris.

Abhishek Verma held his nerve in a shoot-off against American heavyweight Kris Schaff in the gold medal match in Paris. He had previously won gold at the individual event in Wroclaw in 2015 and also a silver in 2018.

Abhishek Verma also has won two medals at World Cup Finals, a silver in 2015 and bronze in 2018.

In a neck-and-neck final clash, the duo dropped just two points each to be locked 148-all after the regulation five ends.

Kerala Swimmer Sajan Prakash qualify for the Tokyo Olympics

India's Sajan Prakash became the first swimmer from the country to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games after his outstanding performance in the ongoing Sette Colli Trophy.

Sajan Prakash is an Indian swimmer who specializes in freestyle, butterfly and medley events.

At the 2015 National Games in Kerala, he set a record on 8 February 2015 by winning 6 gold and 3 Silver medals, and became the best athlete of the Indian National Games, held at Trivandrum, Kerala.

With this time he qualified for the 200 m butterfly event at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. As of June 2021, he is the holder of 11 Indian national swimming records in events spanning freestyle, butterfly, medley and relay categories.

Jharkhand SCA is to establish an International Cricket stadium in Bokaro

Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) signed a lease agreement with SAIL Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) for the construction of Jharkhand's third International Cricket Stadium in Bokaro.

Bokaro will become third city in Jharkhand after Jamshedpur and Ranchi to feature in International cricket map once the stadium is ready.

The proposed stadium will be built in Balidih area of Bokaro and will also be the first stadium to be constructed in SAIL township.

Honorary Secretary of JSCA Sanjay Sahay and Bokaro Steel Plant's assistant manager SR Patra signed the lease agreement for land.

Youngest Indian cricketer to make debut across all formats in International Cricket

Opener Shafali Verma became the youngest Indian cricketer to make debut across formats after being picked for the first ODI against England Women.

She took 17 years and 150 days to make her debut across format, making her the fifth youngest cricketer overall in the list, headed by Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

Rahman had made his all format debut at 17 years and 78 days, followed by England's Sarah Taylor (17 years 86 days), Australia's Ellyse Perry (17 years 104 days) and Pakistan's Mohammad Amir (17 years 108 days).

Verma had scored 96 and 63 in her dream debut in the one-off Test against England which ended

in a sensational draw last week. She was the youngest batter to score two fifties on debut in women's Test.

Verma has scored 617 runs with three fifties in the 22 T20Is that she has played so far since making her debut in September 2019.

The T20 World Cup will be held in UAE this year

The International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's T20 World Cup 2021 will be staged in the UAE and Oman due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation in India.

ICC is the world governing body of cricket. It was founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909 by representatives from Australia, England and South Africa.

It was renamed as the International Cricket Conference in 1965, and took up its current name in 1987. The ICC has its headquarters in Dubai, UAE.

The ICC has 104 member nations currently: 12 Full Members that play Test matches, and 92 Associate Members.

The ICC is responsible for the organisation and governance of cricket's major international tournaments, most notably the Cricket World Cup and the T20 World Cup.

It also appoints the umpires and referees that officiate at all sanctioned Test matches, One Day Internationals and Twenty20 Internationals.

SECURITY

Operation Sagar Aaraksha II conducted by Indian Coast Guard (ICG)

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has been tirelessly engaged in fighting a major fire onboard the Chemical laden container vessel MV X-Press Pearl anchored off Colombo in coordination with Sri Lankan authorities.

The coordinated joint operation between India and Sri Lanka undertaken to respond to potential environmental danger has been christened as Sagar Aaraksha-II.

Indian Coast Guard ships, including the specialised pollution response vessel Samudra Prahari and offshore patrol vessel Vajra are standby in vicinity to respond to the developing situation.

The ICG being an active member of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) remains committed to its responsibility of safeguarding of the ocean environment in the region.

The vessel when caught with fire was carrying 1486 containers containing chemical cargo classified as International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG).

Construction of six Conventional Submarines under Project P 75 (I)

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved issue of RFP for construction of six Conventional Submarines under Project P 75 (I) under the Strategic Partnership (SP) Model.

This project envisages indigenous construction of six conventional submarines equipped with

the state-of-the-art Air Independent Propulsion system at an estimated cost of Rs 43,000 crore.

This project under SP Model provides a unique long-term opportunity and planning certainty for the industry to invest and support submarine construction.

It will also infuse the latest technology and weaponry for submarines in India through strategic tie up between Indian Industry and leading foreign OEMs.

This is a landmark approval, being the first case processed under the Strategic Partnership model.

This would be one of the largest 'Make in India' projects and will serve to facilitate faster and more significant absorption of technology and create a tiered industrial ecosystem for submarine construction in India.

From a strategic perspective, this will help reduce current dependence on imports and gradually ensure greater self-reliance and dependability of supplies from indigenous sources.

America set to hand over three MH-60 Romeo helicopters to India

The Indian Navy is set to receive its first set of multi-role helicopters as America is set to hand over three MH-60 Romeo helicopters to the force in the United States in July.

The first batch of Indian pilots has also reached the US for training on the helicopters which would be arriving in India next year in July.

The 24 MH-60 Romeos would be equipped with multi-mode radars and night-vision devices as

well as armed with Hellfire missiles, torpedoes and precision-guided weaponry.

The MH-60 would be replacing Sea Kings which would be on their way out of the force very soon.

The helicopters are designed to operate from frigates, destroyers, cruisers and aircraft carriers.

Indian Navy conducted 31st edition of CORPAT Exercise with Thailand

The Indian Navy conducted the India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) with Royal Thai Navy on June 9.

As per the official statement, the Indian Naval Ship Saryu which is an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, and His Majesty's Thailand Ship Krabi which is an offshore patrol vessel, along with the Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both India and Thai Navy have been participating in the Indo-Thai CORPAT.

List of Exercise conducted by Indian Navy with other countries:

- Malabar Exercise: Naval Exercise between India, US, Japan and Australia
- Sri Lanka: SLINEX
- Russia: INDRA NAVY
- UK: Konkan
- France: Varuna
- Oman: Naseem-AL-Bahr
- Vitenam: Sahyog
- Singapore: SIMBEX
- Myanmar: IMCOR

S-400 SAMs knocked out in Simulated Strikes by US

The Russian air Defense system S-400 has knocked out in Simulated Strikes by US in the African Lion 2021.

The African Lion is an annual multinational military exercise conducted by AFRICOM and attached to US European Command's DEFENDER series that holds counter military operations and training in North Africa and Southern Europe.

The aim of the series is to enhance the interoperability of the US, partner nations and regional organizations in order to contain regional instability, conduct peace operations, counter violent extremist organizations, maintain cross-border security and counter transnational threats, as per its website.

The S-400 Triumph air defense system (code-named SA-21 Growler by NATO) consists of long-range surface-to-air missiles (SAM) with a maximum range of 400 km and multiple launching elements.

It is a key weapon in Russia's anti-aircraft defense with a capacity to destroy fighter jets, cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, and drones.

The proliferation of S-400s puts the US and its NATO allies in a peculiar spot. Russia has been pushing exports since it operationalized the defense system in 2007 and many countries have shown interest.

India has 156 nuclear warheads according to SIPRI

Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Year Book 2021 has been released recently where India said to be has 156 nuclear warheads.

China and Pakistan have 350 and 165 nuclear warheads respectively as of January this year and the three countries appear to be expanding their nuclear arsenals.

Russia and the US together possess over 90 percent of the estimated 13,080 global nuclear weapons.

There are nine countries in the world that have nuclear weapons: the US, Russia, the UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea.

Maiden IN – EUNAVFOR Joint Naval Exercise in the Gulf of Aden

Indian Naval Ship Triakand, mission deployed for Anti-Piracy Operations, is participating in the maiden IN – EUNAVFOR Joint Naval Exercise in the Gulf of Aden also known as the Gulf of Berbera.

Gulf of Aden is a deepwater gulf between Yemen to the north, the Arabian Sea to the east, Djibouti to the west, and the Guardafui Channel, Socotra (Yemen), and Somalia to the south.

In the northwest, it connects with the Red Sea through the Bab-el-Mandeb strait, and it connects with the Arabian Sea to the east. To the west, it narrows into the Gulf of Tadjoura in Djibouti.

The waterway is part of the important Suez Canal shipping route between the Mediterranean Sea and the Arabian Sea in the Indian Ocean, with 21,000 ships crossing the gulf annually.

Important cities along the Gulf of Aden include the namesake Aden in Yemen. Other Yemeni cities are Zinjibar, Shuqrah, Ahwar, Balhaf, Mukalla. On the Horn of Africa side, the cities of Djibouti, Berbera, and Bosaso.

Indian Navy has conducted a Passage Exercise in Indian Ocean Region with US

Indian Naval Ships Kochi and Teg along with P8I and MiG 29K aircraft participated in a Passage Exercise with US Navy Carrier Strike Group Ronald Reagan during its transit through Indian Ocean Region.

The Indian Naval warships along with aircraft from Indian Navy and Indian Air Force engaged in joint multi-domain operations with the Carrier Strike Group.

The two-day exercise aimed to strengthen bilateral relationship and cooperation by demonstrating the ability to integrate and coordinate comprehensively in maritime operations.

High tempo operations during the exercise include advanced air defence exercises, cross deck helicopter operations and anti-submarine exercises.

The participating forces honed their war-fighting skills and enhance their interoperability as an integrated force to promote peace, security and stability in the maritime domain.

Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant to be introduced in Indian Navy by 2022

India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) to be commissioned by 2022 and its combat capability, reach and versatility will add formidable capabilities in the country's defence.

The IAC boasts of nearly 75 percent indigenous content, from design to steel used in construction, to key weapons and sensors.

Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND) has designed the IAC, which is being built at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and will have a displacement of 40,000 tonnes.

IAC, which is 262 metres long and 62 metres wide, will be able to launch 30 aircraft, including 20 fighter jets and 10 helicopters.

The ship will be compatible with the MiG-29K and LCA Navy aircraft and will have two runways and a landing strip with STOBAR (short take off but arrested delivery) equipment.

Indian Navy's Joint Exercises with friendly Navies in Africa and Europe

Indian Naval Ship Tabar commenced her prolonged deployment on 13 June and will visit a number of ports in Africa and Europe till end September, towards enhancing military cooperation with friendly nations.

During port visits, Tabar will conduct professional, social and sporting interactions. The ship will also participate in a number of joint exercises with friendly navies

INS Tabar, is a Talwar-class stealth Frigate built for Indian Navy in Russia. The ship is commanded by Captain M Mahesh and has a complement of 300 personnel.

The ship is equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors and is among the earliest stealth frigates of the Indian Navy.

The ship is part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet which is based at Mumbai under Western Naval Command.

MISCELLANEOUS

Suryakiran aerobatic display team completes 25 years

The Suryakiran aerobatic display team of the Indian Air Force (IAF), which has enthralled crowds across the country with their hair-raising manoeuvres with their aircraft in red and white, has just completed 25 years.

One of the few nine aircraft display teams in the world and the only one in Asia, the team has carried out over 600 displays across the country and south east Asia.

"Suryakiran", which means 'rays of the sun' in Sanskrit, was raised in May 27, 1996, at the IAF air base in Bidar, Karnataka, with six Kiran MkII trainer aircraft.

It carried out its first display on September 15, 1996 for the golden jubilee celebrations of the Air Force Administrative College in Coimbatore.

However, the team was disbanded in 2011 after the Aero India show due to shortage of training aircraft in the IAF and was resurrected in 2015 on advanced jet trainer Hawk Mk-132 aircraft.

This team, which has been the brand ambassador of the IAF, is also the 52 squadron of the IAF and is the youngest fighter squadron with the motto "Always the Best".

RBI cancels licence of Pune-based Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank

Recently the Reserve bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank, Pune as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

The central bank has taken this decision due to lack of sufficient capital and earning potential with the bank.

Further, the bank said that the bank does not comply with certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Customers deposit their money in banks with full confidence, but many times the banks are not able to work according to the rules of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). In such a situation, the central bank takes action on them.

RBI imposes penalty on most banks. But in some circumstances he has to cancel the license in the interest of protecting the customers.

100th anniversary of the raising of Army Educational Corps (AEC)

Indian Army celebrated the 100th anniversary of the raising of Army Educational Corps (AEC) on 01 June 2021.

History of the AEC dates back to 1921 when the mass scale of illiteracy amongst the Indian soldiers were prevalent.

Since then, many remarkable developments have seen AEC grow over the years adapting seamlessly to the rapid growth of education and technology as also the organisational needs.

The Army Education Corps of India is a program run by the Indian Army that develops soldiers and officers of all ranks in a variety of disciplines.

The centre provides education in both combat and non-combat operations. The Corps' facilities are located in Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh.

MoFAHD chaired a virtual program on the occasion of World Milk Day

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Giriraj Singh chaired a virtual program organised on the occasion of World Milk Day.

The Minister announced the launch of the National Awards for the Cattle and Dairy sector, the Gopal Ratna Awards. The award has three categories –

- i) Best Dairy farmer
- ii) Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT)
- iii) Best Dairy Cooperative/Milk producer Company/ FPO.

He also announced integration of e Gopala App with UMANG platform so that 3.1 Crore users of Umang platform will get access to App.

e-GOPALA app (Generation of wealth through Productive Livestock), a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers, had been launched by Hon'ble PM on 10th September 2020.

Oral tablets of Amphotericin B to treat fungal infections

To treat fungal infections post COVID treatment, Hyderabad based Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), recently developed nano-fibre based oral tablets of Amphotericin B, called as AmB.

The researchers of IIT Hyderabad have decided to keep the technology free of intellectual property rights and ready for technology transfer for mass production of the drug, which is reportedly cheaper and higher AmB absorption and less Nephrotoxicity.

Prof. Saptarshi Majumdar and Dr. Chandra Shekhar Sharma from the Department of

Chemical Engineering have made a study two year ago about oral nanofibrous AmB to be effective for Kala Azar.

This was a first-ever attempt to fabricate nanofibrous oral tablets of Amphotericin B for the potential cure of Kala Azar.

The researchers are confident that the technology can be transferred to suitable pharma partners for large-scale production.

The researchers recalled that Kala-Azar treatment is being currently used as a treatment for Mucormycosis in the country and opined that the immediate trial of this oral drug should be taken up to increase affordability and availability of the drug.

WHO approves China's SINOVAC Covid vaccine for emergency use

China's SINOVAC Covid vaccine has been approved by the World Health Organization for Emergency Use Listing, EUL.

WHO's Emergency Use Listing (EUL) is a prerequisite for COVAX Facility vaccine supply and international procurement.

It opens the door for the jab to be used in the COVAX programme, which aims to ensure fair access to vaccines. The vaccine is produced by the Beijing-based pharmaceutical company Sinovac.

The Sinovac-CoronaVac product is an inactivated vaccine (The disease-carrying virus or bacterium, or one very similar to it, is inactivated or killed using chemicals, heat or radiation).

Its easy storage requirements make it very manageable and particularly suitable for low-resource settings.

NITI Aayog to release the SDG India Index & Dashboard, 2020-21

NITI Aayog recently launched the third edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index and Dashboard 2020-21.

Kerala managed to retain the top spot this year in the SDG India Index. While Bihar was placed at the bottom of the government think tank's SDG India Index.

Bihar and Jharkhand were the worst-performing states on the SDG India Index with scores of 52 and 56 respectively.

Mizoram, Haryana, and Uttarakhand were the top gainers in 2020-21 in terms of improvement in score from 2019, with an increase of 12, 10 and 8 points, respectively.

The SDG India Index is tabulated annually by NITI Aayog in order to evaluate the progress of states and union territories on the basis of social, economic and environmental criteria.

The results show that the country's overall sustainable development goals score has improved by six points. It has gone up from 60 in 2019 to 66 in 2020-21.

YounTab scheme for students to encourage digital learning

Lt Governor RK Mathur, Ladakh has launched the YounTab scheme for students in the Union Territory. He distributed tablets to the students of 9 to 12 class as part of the first phase of the YounTab Scheme.

A total of 12 thousand 300 students of 6th to 12th class from government schools will benefit from the scheme.

YounTab scheme formulated to encourage digital learning, bridge the digital divide between connected and unconnected and mitigate the Covid pandemic disruptions.

A total of 12 thousand 300 students of 6th to 12th class from government schools will benefit from the scheme.

CBSE to introduce Coding and Data Science curriculum

CBSE is going to introduce Coding for classes 6-8 and Data Science curriculum for classes 8-12 as new skilling subjects in the 2021-2022 academic session with the collaboration of Microsoft.

Coding and data science Curriculum are focused on building critical thinking, computational skills, problem solving skills, creativity and hands-on exposure to new technologies.

In keeping with the New Education Policy 2020, the introduction of these courses is aimed at building next generation skills in students.

Microsoft has designed supplementary handbooks in both coding and data science, aligned with NCERT patterns and structures and covered real-life examples aimed at building exposure to the ethical dimensions exposure to Microsoft MakeCode.

Microsoft MakeCode is an open-source platform that will enable students to learn better in a gamified manner across all disciplines including mathematics, languages, and social sciences while it builds the foundation for AI based applications of data science.

Education Minister approves Performance Grading Index 2019-20 for States, UTs

Union Education Minister recently approved the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20 for States and Union Territories, which was introduced with a set of 70 parameters to bring about change in school education.

The Index for States and Union Territories was first published in 2019 with reference to the year 2017-18. The PGI: States/UTs for 2019-20 is the third publication in this series.

Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Kerala occupy the highest grade (Grade A++) for 2019-20.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Puducherry, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have improved overall PGI score by 10 per cent.

Thirteen states and UTs showed improvement by 10 per cent or more in the PGI domain: Infrastructure and Facilities. Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Odisha have shown improvement by 20 per cent or more.

Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Odisha have shown more than 10 per cent improvement in the PGI domain: Equity.

Weyan becomes first village in India to achieve 100% vaccination of adults

Weyan, a village in district Bandipora (J&K) has become the first village in the country, where entire population above 18 years has been vaccinated.

Due to the difficult terrain of the area, the vaccinators had walked 18 km on foot to reach the village, as per the Governor's office.

Weyan, a remote village in Bandipora district of Jammu & Kashmir. There have 362 adult residents of the J-K village.

The village is located only 28 kilometres away from Bandipora district headquarters but a distance of 18 kilometres has to be covered by foot as there is no motorable road.

The First Solar Eclipse of 2021

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the first solar eclipse of the year 2021 to be occur on 10th June which will be visible to people across the northern hemisphere.

Solar eclipse will be visible in India, but only from Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. During a solar eclipse, the moon casts a shadow onto Earth.

NASA describes solar eclipse as an astronomical phenomenon which occurs when the Moon moves between the Sun and Earth, casting a shadow on the latter, fully or partially blocking the Sun's light in some areas.

However, this solar eclipse will be an "annular" solar eclipse, which means that the Moon is so far away from Earth, that it appears smaller in size than the Sun in the sky.

Since the Moon is not blocking the entire view of the Sun, space enthusiasts will see a "dark disk on top of a large, bright disk." This is also known as the "ring of fire."

3 Indian Universities Top in 200 QS World University Rankings

Three Indian Universities named Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, IIT Delhi and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru have been

ranked in the top 200 of the QS World University Rankings 2022.

As many as 22 Indian universities featured in the top 1,000 WUR, in comparison to 21 in QS WUR 2021, 23 in 2020, 24 in 2019, and 20 in 2018.

Out of these, four made it to the top-1,000 club for the first time. These were Jawaharlal Nehru University (561-570), Pondicherry University (801-1,000), IIT Bhubaneswar (701-750) and Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (801-1,000).

Five institutions – IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Guwahati and Savitribai Phule Pune University – have achieved their best positions in five years in the latest rankings.

Meanwhile, Aligarh Muslim University, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham dropped from the top 1,000 and now rank between 1,001 and 1,200.

IIT Bombay, at rank 177, continued to be India's best higher education institution for the fourth consecutive year and IISc remained the world's top research university, maintaining a perfect score of 100 in the research metric.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) remained the top university for the 10th consecutive year.

The University of Oxford rose to the second rank for the first time since 2006, while Stanford University and the University of Cambridge shared the third spot.

Ministry of Education releases AISHE 2019-20 report

The Ministry of Education recently released the All Indian Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) report 2019-20.

The report revealed that the number of Institutes of National Importance (INIs) have increased from 75 in 2015 to 135 in 2020.

The number of PhDs has also increased by 60 per cent in the last five years.

Students pursuing a Master's degree in technology had decreased by more than half in the last five years alone, from 2,89,311 in 2014-15 to 1,35,500 in 2018-19.

As per the AISHE report 2018-19, BTech and MTech programmes had seen a dramatic fall. B.Tech enrolment fell by 11 per cent in the same period, from 42,54,919 to 37,70,949.

Akshay Kumar becomes Brand Ambassador of 'Mylab Discovery Solutions'

Akshay Kumar has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of biotechnology company Mylab Discovery Solutions.

The partnership with Akshay is aimed at creating awareness for Mylab's products and kits such as CoviSelf and also to share educational content, according to the firm.

MyLab Discovery Solutions had launched CoviSelf after receiving approval from the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR).

The price for CoviSelf kit has been set at Rs 250. According to the firm, the self-test kit offers a "comfortable, easy-to-use and accurate alternative to the current test method". The kit can be purchased without a prescription from online channels as well as local pharmacies.

According to the company, CoviSelf has been designed as a mid-nasal swab test which can detect positive results in just 15 minutes. Each

unit contains a testing kit, instructions to use (IFU) leaflet and a bag to safely dispose of after testing.

Ministry of Education launched 'PRABANDH' portal

Union Education Ministry recently launched an online module to compile data on out-of-school children. Through this, they will facilitate age appropriate admissions of children in the age group of 6-14 years and those belonging to socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

Whereas, for out of school children in the 16-18 years age group, financial assistance will be provided for the first time in the current session 2021-22, to continue their education through open/distance learning mode.

The ministry has developed an online module for compiling the data of out-of-school children identified by each state/UT and their mapping with special training centres (STC) on the PRABANDH portal to track down such children.

The child-wise information of the identified out of school children and STCs will be uploaded at block level under the supervision of block source coordinator of the certain block research centre (BRC).

Ministry of AYUSH launches 'Namaste Yoga' Mobile App

Ministry of AYUSH launched the 'Namaste Yoga' a mobile application in the curtain raiser event for the 7th International Day of Yoga.

The event was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.

It aims to raise awareness about yoga and make it accessible for the larger community.

Ayush Ministry said that the event also marked the beginning of a 10-episode series on various aspects of Common Yoga Protocol which would be telecast on DD India. The series has been produced by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.

Women growing turmeric in Odisha's Koraput district

Women growing turmeric in Odisha's Koraput district appear to have found a foothold in a market that promises a perennial return for their organic crop.

The turmeric grown in Laxmipur block of Koraput district is distinct as it contains curcumin between 5.5% and 6.66%.

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) is, a perennial herbaceous plant of the ginger family. The plant's underground stems or rhizomes have been used as spice, dye, medicine and religious maker since antiquity.

The spice's colour comes mainly from curcumin, a bright yellow phenolic compound that has been in the news for its ostensible potential to fight cancer. As a result, the demand for turmeric with high curcumin content has risen.

Telangana followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and odisha are largest producers in India.

'Kandhamal Haldi' (a variety of turmeric indigenous to southern Odisha) and Erode turmeric (grown in the entire Erode district of Tamil Nadu) have earned the GI tag.

Madhya Pradesh launch 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan

Madhya Pradesh launched 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan' to make people aware about the COVID pandemic. It means free from corona with the help of a youth power campaign.

In the Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan, college teachers and around 16 lakh students will be made aware of corona infection by learning Covid appropriate behavior and vaccination.

This campaign will be run by the Higher Education and Technical Education Department in collaboration with the Public Health and Family Welfare Department.

A mobile app has also been developed for effective real time online monitoring of the campaign.

On the other hand, now 20 persons each from the bride and groom side will be able to participate in the marriage ceremony.

There is not a single case in twenty districts. Infections are in two digits only in Bhopal, Indore and Jabalpur.

Jitendra Singh participated in the "Diabetes India World Congress – 2021"

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh participated in the "Diabetes India" World Congress-2021, as chief guest.

He is also a former Professor of Diabetes and Medicine besides being the Life Patron of the coveted RSSDI (Research Society for Study of Diabetes in India).

Over the last two decades, India has seen a surge in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, which has now acquired pan-Indian proportions.

Type 2 Diabetes, which was till two decades ago prevalent mostly in South India, is today equally rampant in North India and at the same time, it has also moved from metros, cities and urban areas to rural hinterland.

Budgetary support of Rs 498.8 crore for innovation in defense sector

Union Defence minister approved an amount of nearly Rs 500 crore to boost research and innovation in the defence sector.

The Central government approved a budgetary support of Rs 498.8 crore to Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) - Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) for the next five years.

This is part of a scheme to promote innovations after the creation of the iDEX framework and establishment of the DIO by the Department of Defence Production (DDP).

The scheme is aimed at providing financial support to nearly 300 start-ups, individual innovators, micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and 20 partner incubators under the DIO framework.

It is aimed at creating an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in defence and aerospace by engaging industries, including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia.

The scheme is also aimed at providing them grants or funding and other support to carry out R&D development which has good potential for future adoption for Indian defence and aerospace needs.

The scheme will support increased awareness in the Indian innovation ecosystem about defence needs and, conversely, in the Indian Defence establishment about the potential of the Indian innovation eco-system to deliver innovative solutions to meet their needs.

Telangana started Medicine from the sky project

The State government of Telangana recently launched 'Medicine from the Sky' initiative in partnership with World Economic Forum, Niti Aayog, and HealthNet Global.

Under this project, Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) drone flights will be used for delivery of vaccines and drugs using the identified airspace of the Vikarabad district.

The objective of Medicine from the Sky is to generate insights that can drive future adoption strategies and policy interventions for inclusion of drones in healthcare supply chain.

The goal is to integrate drone deliveries with existing systems and enable urban grade infrastructure even for remote and rural areas.

The project will kick off on a trial mode at the Vikarabad Area Hospital. The program will last for 24 days where four batches would carry out sorties for six days each.

The drones would be carrying vaccine cold storage boxes equipped with temperature sensors and data loggers to record the performance.

Project O2 for India to increase supply of medical oxygen

The Centre has launched 'Project O2 for India' to step up production of medical oxygen to meet

the potential increase in demand due to further waves of the pandemic.

'Project O2 for India', an initiative of the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (Gol).

It aims to help stakeholders working to augment the country's ability to meet the rise in demand for medical oxygen.

Under the project, a 'National Consortium of Oxygen' is enabling supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants, manufacturing compressors, final products such as oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators.

Besides, the consortium is also working to strengthen the manufacturing ecosystem for long-term preparedness.

Volleyball player Nirmal Milkha Singh passed away

Former India women's volleyball captain, Nirmal Milkha Singh, passed away in Chandigarh at the age of 85.

Nirmal was born as in Sheikhpura, Pakistan, on October 8, 1938. She was captain of the Punjab volleyball team on three separate occasions.

In 1955, she also went on tour to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) as part of India volleyball team, it is where she met Milkha Singh. Both were deputed as sports administrators in Chandigarh in 1960 and 1961.

While Milkha joined Punjab administration in Chandigarh as deputy director of sports, Nirmal was director sports for women. Milkha married Nirmal back in 1962.

She is survived by her husband Milkha Singh, three daughters Dr Mona Singh, Aleeza Grover, Sonia Sanwalka, and son Jeev Milkha is an ace golfer.

Suresh Raina's autobiography "Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me"

Suresh Raina, one of India's most successful international cricketers, has published his own memoir 'Believe: What Life and Cricket Taught Me' along with cricket writer Bharat Sundaresan.

'Believe', the word Sachin Tendulkar told him-and he took it to heart, getting the word etched on his arm as a tattoo.

In this book, Raina takes you through the challenges he faced as a young cricketer. He was bullied in school and at cricket camps, but he always punched above his weight, overcoming every adversity life threw at him and never giving up.

It takes us through the highs and lows of the cricketing career of a man who saw his world fall apart and yet became one of the most influential white-ball cricketers India has ever seen.

Ladakh declared "Open Defecation Free" in India

The Union Territory of Ladakh has been declared Open Defecation Free UT in India under the First Phase of Swachh Bharat Mission.

This was stated by Director of Rural Development Department Tahir Hussain Zubdavi.

RDD Ladakh is taking scientific segregation of Waste and Garbage upon to Village Level and will be establishing Garbage Segregation Centre at Block Level and an awareness programme has

also been started in Kargil Ladakh to make people aware about Reduce, Recycle and Reuse.

Mr Zubdavi also flagged off six Garbage Collection Vans for each Zones of Kargil to give for this purpose.

NHAI made drone survey mandatory for all National Highway projects

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has made use of drones mandatory for monthly video-recording of national highway projects during all stages of development - construction, operation and maintenance.

NHAI project directors will undertake monthly drone surveys from the date of signing the contract till start of construction on site, as well as after completion of the project.

Authorities will also undertake monthly drone surveys in all developed projects where NHAI is responsible for operation and maintenance.

Apart from this, mandatory deployment of Network Survey Vehicles (NSVs) will carry out road condition reces on national highways to enhance quality.

NSVs use latest survey techniques such as high-resolution digital camera for 360-degree imagery, laser road profilometer and others, said the statement.

Amazon launched ML (Machine Learning) Summer School

Amazon India launched its Machine Learning Summer School, an integrated learning programme to make students industry ready.

The programme is open to engineering students in their pre-final and final year Bachelors, Masters, or PhD studies.

The ML Summer School curriculum will cover fundamentals of machine learning, linking them to practical industry applications through a three-day course.

Students will get to learn about Deep Learning and Probabilistic Graphical Models to solve e-commerce industry-specific business problems—demand forecasting, catalogue quality, product recommendations, search ranking and online advertising.

Amazon India has collaborated with IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, IISc, IIT BHU, IIIT Hyderabad, IIIT Bangalore, Indraprastha Institute of Technology in Delhi, BITS, IIT Hyderabad, ISM Dhanbad, IIT Roorkee, IIT Guwahati, NIT Tiruchirappalli, NIT Surathkal, NIT Warangal, Anna University and Delhi Technological University.

Global Skills Report 2021

Coursera Inc. recently released the 'Global Skills Report 2021' where India has been ranked 67th overall globally.

Indian learners have high proficiency in digital skills like Cloud Computing (83%) and Machine Learning (52%) & 54% in Mathematical skills.

Improvement is needed in digital skills because in Data Analysis and Statistical programming, ranked only at 25% and 15% skills proficiency.

The report is based on performance data of about 77 million learners (from across 100 countries) on the platform collected since the onset of the pandemic. It benchmarks skills proficiency across 3 categories – Business, Technology and data science.

Indian Army holds trial run of train on Dedicated Freight Corridor

The Army successfully conducted a trial run of a military train loaded with vehicles and equipment on Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) from New Rewari in Haryana to New Phulera in Rajasthan.

The successful 247-km run is part of an exercise by the Narendra Modi government called 'Whole of the Nation Approach', which is aimed at optimising national resources and achieving seamless synergy among ministries and departments.

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India is constructing the Western DFC (1506 Route km) and Eastern DFC (1875 route km including Sonnagar-Dankuni PPP Section).

The EDFC starting from Sahnewal near Ludhiana (Punjab) will pass through the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand to terminate at Dankuni in West Bengal.

The Western Corridor connecting Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) in Mumbai will traverse through the states of UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra of WDFC.

Delhi decided to train 5,000 youths as health assistants

The Delhi government recently decided to train 5,000 youths to assist doctors and nurses as part of preparations for a possible third wave of COVID-19.

Under the plan, 5,000 youth will be given two weeks training by Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University.

This training will be provided in nine major medical institutes in Delhi. These people will work as assistants to doctors and nurses; they won't be able to make (medical) decisions themselves.

They will be provided training in basic nursing, paramedics, life-saving, first aid and home care.

They (health assistants) will be called to work as and when the need arises. They will be paid depending on the number of days they work.

Telangana government launched a programme called 'Revv up'

Telangana government launched the Telangana Artificial Intelligence Mission (TAIM) accelerator programme Revv Up, which is exclusively designed for growth-stage artificial intelligence (AI) startups.

The vision of T-AIM is to develop Telangana as a global hub for AI startups.

Revv Up, which will begin its first cohort in July this year, is another step towards making Telangana and Hyderabad a global destination for AI and other emerging technologies.

The Revv Up accelerator will provide the opportunity for startups to solve tough business problems in collaboration with the government and industry.

Selected startups will receive mentorship from industry experts and technology and IP support to build a scalable business around their AI-based product or service.

The program is aimed at growth-stage AI startups that are based in Hyderabad or intending to set up their facility in the city. T-AIM

encourages startups that have a strong AI use case to apply.

PM Narendra Modi's approval rating highest among world leaders

According to a survey conducted by an American data intelligence firm, Morning Consult, Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues to fare better than other global leaders.

Morning Consult Political Intelligence tracks the approval rating for governmental leaders in Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States on a weekly basis.

After PM Modi, Italian PM Mario Draghi's approval rating stands at 65 per cent followed by Mexican President López Obrador at 63 per cent.

Morning Consult is a global data intelligence company delivering insights and custom market research on what people think in real time.

India ranks 43rd in IMD's World Competitiveness Index 2021

India held the 43rd rank in World Competitiveness Index 2021 of Institute for Management Development (IMD).

Among the BRICS countries, India was ranked second after China (16), followed by Russia (45th), Brazil (57th) and South Africa (62nd).

Switzerland led the 64-nation list, followed by Sweden (moved up to the second position from sixth in 2020), Denmark, the Netherlands and Singapore.

IMD World Competitiveness Centre publishes the ranking annually that evaluates the prosperity and competitiveness of 64 nations by assessing

four factors – infrastructure, economic performance, business efficiency and government efficiency.

India ranks 135th in 15th edition of Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021

India ranks 135th in 15th edition of Global Peace Index (GPI) was announced by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) Sydney, Australia.

Index ranks 163 independent states and territories as per level of their peacefulness. Iceland is most peaceful country worldwide since 2008. Iceland is joined by other top countries like Denmark, New Zealand, Portugal and Slovenia.

Afghanistan is the world's least peaceful country for the fourth consecutive year, but it was Burkina Faso which recorded the largest deterioration in the Global Peace Index 2021. Afghanistan is followed by Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and Iraq.

Bhutan and Nepal are first and second most peaceful in this region. Bangladesh was 91th out of 163 countries across the world while being 3rd in South Asia. Sri Lanka slipped by 19 position to become 95th peaceful country while, 4th in South Asia region. Pakistan witnessed the most improvement in peacefulness with 150th rank globally and 6th in South Asia region.

Ministry of Home Affairs launches national helpline no. to report cyber crime

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) operationalised the national helpline 155260 and reporting platform for preventing financial loss due to cyber fraud.

The helpline was soft launched on April 1, 2021. The helpline 155260 and its reporting platform has been made operational by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), with active support and cooperation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), all major banks, payment banks, wallets and online merchants.

The Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System has been developed in-house by I4C to integrate law enforcement agencies and banks and financial intermediaries.

Currently, the number would be operational in seven states and Union territories (Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh). The roll out in the others states for pan-India coverage is underway, the government added.

Reducing Road Accident Deaths by 50% by Year 2024

Ministry for Road Transport & Highways of India set up a target to reduce road accident deaths by 50% by year 2024.

Road Transport Minister congratulated FICCI on the announcement of Road Safety consortium 'Safar', based on the safe system approach.

The Minister announced that an independent road safety council, headed by a retired IAS officer would come into force within 15 days.

The Minister emphasised on the need for identification of 'black spot' in every state, district and city. A black spot is defined as a stretch not more than 500m in length where five accidents have taken place or where ten fatalities have happened in the last three years.

Government amended Cable Television Network Rules

The Government of India issued a notification amending the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 thereby providing a statutory mechanism for redressal of grievances/complaints of citizens relating to content broadcast by television channels in accordance with the provisions of the Cable Television Network Act, 1995.

The Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021, provides for a three-level grievance redressal mechanism which are self-regulation by broadcasters, self-regulation by the self-regulating bodies of the broadcasters, and oversight by an Inter-Departmental Committee at the level of the Centre.

A viewer could file a complaint directly to the broadcaster, who would have to respond within 15 days. If the complainant was not satisfied with the response, the complaint could be escalated to the self-regulating bodies set up by TV channels, which should deal with the case in 60 days.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the self-regulating body, he may, within 15 days of such decision, prefer an appeal to the Central government for its consideration under the Oversight Mechanism.

Such appeals would be dealt with by the Inter-Departmental Committee set up under the Oversight Mechanism.

The Committee would be headed by the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and have members from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Home Ministry, Ministry of

Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Defence, and representatives of other Ministries and organisations, including experts, as the Centre may decide.

Arjun Munda inaugurated the Second National Sickle Cell Conclave

Shri Arjun Munda, Minister of Tribal Affairs inaugurated the Second National Sickle Cell Conclave on 'Sickle Cell Disease'. This year's event is being held after last year's successful roll out of a National Webinar on Sickle Cell Disease.

Sickle cell disease (SCD), which is the most prevalent inherited blood disorder, is widespread amongst many tribal population groups in India, posing a considerable health burden in several states.

While there are several cost-effective interventions, which have dramatically reduced morbidity and mortality from SCD in India, the access to care for SCD in the tribal regions of India is limited.

The disease in India is prevalent predominantly in Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, western Odisha, Eastern Gujarat and in pockets of the Nilgiri Hills in north Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Prime Minister Modi launched M-Yoga app

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'WHO M-Yoga' App while addressing on the occasion of 7th International Day of Yoga.

M-Yoga app will provide many videos of Yoga training and practice based on common Yoga protocol in many languages.

Terming this as a great example of fusion of modern technology and ancient science, the Prime Minister expressed the hope that M-Yoga app will help in spreading Yoga world over and will contribute to the efforts of 'One World, One Health'.

The Ministry of AYUSH and the World Health Organization (WHO) had jointly undertaken a project in mid 2019, focussing on mobile-Yoga.

In order to achieve the above objectives, a memorandum of understanding was signed in July, 2019 between WHO and the Ministry of AYUSH. The m-Yoga project focused on four areas:

- (1) Common Yoga Protocol for General Wellness;
- (2) Yoga for mental health and resilience;
- (3) Yoga for Adolescents; and
- (4) Yoga for pre - Diabetics.

Delhi government has launched Course in 'Yoga Science'

On the occasion of International Yoga Day 2021, Delhi government has launched course in 'Meditation and Yoga Sciences'.

The main theme of International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2021 is 'Yoga For Wellness' that focuses on practising Yoga for physical and mental well-being.

Celebrations were held in 192 of the 193 UN member countries, except Yemen, and events were held in 251 cities in six continents with 30,000 people performing yoga in Times Square in New York.

Yoga, an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice, originated in India thousands of years ago. The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolising the union of body and mind.

India host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9)

According to the International Energy Forum (IEF), India has agreed to host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) next year.

The 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable, dates of which will be announced later, will take forward the understandings reached in the previous meeting in Abu Dhabi during 2018, which was co-hosted by India.

The International Energy Forum (IEF) is the world's largest energy organisation with 71 member countries, accounting for 90 per cent of the global energy market.

It holds energy dialogue promoting energy security, market stability and transparency in the transition to a sustainable and inclusive future.

Gov signed MoU with World Bank for Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project

The Government of India, Government of Mizoram and the World Bank have signed a \$32 million Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project.

The Project aims to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram, particularly for the benefit of under-served areas and vulnerable groups.

The Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project will benefit the people across all eight districts of the state.

It will also benefit health sector staff, specifically at the secondary and primary levels, by strengthening their planning and management capacity along with building their clinical skills and competencies.

The project will also invest in improving the overall ecosystem for bio-medical waste management (both solid and liquid waste).

It will include segregation, disinfection, and collection while safeguarding the environment and improving the quality of health service and patient safety.

Ministry of Education organised Toycathon 2021

Prime Minister interacted with participants of Toycathon-2021. This was the grand finale of the toy-making hackathon organised by the government of India.

Toycathon 2021 was jointly launched by the Ministry of Education, WCD Ministry, MSME Ministry, DPIIT, Textile Ministry, I&B Ministry, and AICTE on 5th January 2021 to crowd-source innovative toys and games ideas.

Around 1.2 lakh participants from across India registered and submitted more than 17000 ideas for the Toycathon 2021. Of these, 1567 ideas have been shortlisted for the three-day online Toycathon grand finale.

Toycathon-2021 is aimed at boosting the toy industry in India. It also aimed to conceptualize innovative toys-based on the Indian value system which will inculcate the positive behaviour and good value among the children.

Toycathone is a unique hackathon where students and teachers from schools and colleges, design experts, toy experts, and startups got together to crowdsource ideas for developing toys and games that are based on Indian culture and ethos, local folklore and heroes, and Indian value systems.

The Toycathon has three variants of tracks of junior level, senior level, and startup level. Participants include students and teachers from schools, colleges, and universities as well as startups and toy experts.

Japan to provide USD 9.3 million aid to India to build cold chain system

Japan recently announced to provide USD 9.3 million worth cold chain equipment and related assistance to India to help in the country's fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

Japan has led the operationalisation of the COVAX Facility as an international mechanism for the procurement of vaccines, and recently announced USD 800 million of financial contribution in addition to existing USD 200 million.

Japan's Emergency Grant Aid aims to deliver vaccines to each and every person in the all corners of developing countries, which will complement efforts of the COVAX Facility.

Ruskin Bond authored the book "It's a Wonderful Life"

Ruskin Bond has authored a new book titled 'It's a Wonderful Life' is published by Aleph Book Company which is written in a perceptive, uplifting, deeply moving, and non-fictional way.

He is a recipient of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan. His First Novel was the Room on the Roof.

He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1992 for Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra, his novel in English.

Bond has written hundreds of short stories, essays, novellas and books for children. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014.

Rusty is a popular fictional character created by Ruskin Bond. Rusty is a sixteen-year-old Anglo-Indian boy living in Dehradun.

Andhra Pradesh dispenses with interviews for future recruitments in government jobs

The Andhra Pradesh government issued a formal order dispensing with the process of interviews for all future recruitments into government service, including the executive posts.

The new system, wherein only written examinations would be conducted for all categories of posts, including Group-1 services, would be applicable for all recruitments to be notified from now on.

In 2011, the then united AP government headed by N Kiran Kumar Reddy did away with the interview process for all subordinate services as part of the reforms introduced in APPSC recruitments.

The reforms were implemented as per the recommendations of a high-level committee headed by the then Special Chief Secretary J Satyanarayana.

Written tests and interviews were, however, retained for executive posts like deputy collector, Deputy Superintendent of Police, commercial taxes officer, regional transport officer and the like.

Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy inaugurated in Ahmedabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy at Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA) at Ahmedabad.

PM Modi took to his official social media handles (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) and shared pictures of the recently inaugurated Zen Garden in Ahmedabad.

PM implemented Kaizen in Gujarat administration and the same was introduced in administrative training in Gujarat in 2004. In 2005, a special training camp was organised for the top civil servants.

PM brought Kaizen related experiences and learning of Gujarat to PMO and other central government departments. Kaizen has also been used in many other departments, institutions and central government schemes.

100 best medical colleges of the world in 2021

In a ranking released by CEO World Magazine, Six medical colleges from India have found a place in the list of the World's 100 best medical colleges for the year 2021.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi has bagged 23rd position, while AFMC Pune has bagged 34th rank, followed by CMC Vellore (49), JIPMER Pondicherry (59), Medical College Chennai (64), and IMS BHU Varanasi (72).

The US-based Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine ranked first with the highest score of 99.06, followed by Harvard Medical School, Perelman School of Medicine, and NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

UK-based Oxford University Medical School secured a score of 86.02 to rank 24th, followed by Cincinnati College of Medicine (85.08) and University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine (84.96).

Meanwhile, more medical schools from India made it to the list. Pune-based Armed Forces Medical College came 34th with a score of 83.04. Christian Medical College from Vellore stood 49th with a score of 80.83.

Pondicherry-based JIPMER ranked 59th while Medical College Chennai stood at 64th and IMS BHU Varanasi at 72nd position.

Interim Grievance Officer of Twitter in India has resigned from the post

Twitter's interim resident grievance officer for India has resigned from the post, leaving the micro-blogging site without a grievance official as mandated by the new IT rules to address complaints from Indian subscribers.

The social media company's website no longer displays his name, as required under Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021.

The new rules which came into effect from May 25 mandate social media companies to establish a grievance redressal mechanism for resolving complaints from the users or victims.

All significant social media companies, with over 50 lakh user base shall appoint a grievance officer to deal with such complaints and share the name and contact details of such officers.

The big social media companies are mandated to appoint a chief compliance officer, a Nodal Contact Person and a resident grievance officer. All of them should be resident in India.

Sundeep Mishra authored the book “Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story”

Sundeep Mishra has authored a new book titled ‘Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story’ which chronicles Dutee Chand’s journey with a detailed narrative of the gender-identity controversy that made her an iconic figure in Indian sport.

Dutee Chand, the first openly homosexual athlete from India, scripted history in 2019 when she became the first Indian to win gold in a 100-metre event at the World Universiade in Naples.

Coming from a small village in Odisha, Dutee Chand went on to hold the national record in the women’s 100 metres.

She is only the fifth Indian to participate in the women’s 100 metres at the Olympics when she qualified for the 2016 Rio Games.

Office of Principal Scientific Adviser launched the Atmanirbhar Krishi APP

Office of Principal Scientific Adviser launched the Atmanirbhar Krishi APP which was created to equip farmers with actionable agricultural insights and early weather alerts.

Data related to soil type, soil health, moisture, weather, and water table were aggregated and analysed to generate personalized insights

related to crop selection, fertilizers requirements, and water needs for each farmer at the farm-holding level.

The app was envisioned in 5 stages:

1. Data aggregation
2. Building centralized insights
3. Enable local expertise (KVK) supported interactions and insights
4. Deriving Machine Learning inferences
5. Continuous improvement

Salient features of the app:

1. The data has been made comprehensible for farmers by simplifying the language. The app is also available in 12 languages.
2. The Android and Windows versions of the app are available on Google Play Store and are free of cost for farmers, start-ups, KVKs, SHGs, or NGOs to use.
3. Considering the connectivity issues in the remote areas of the country, the app has been designed to work on minimal bandwidth.
4. The app does not collect any inputs from the farmer. It relies on the geo-location of the farm to provide relevant data (see figure).

Justice Department launches “Enforcing Contracts Portal”

The “Enforcing Contracts Portal” was inaugurated by Department of Justice, Delhi in the presence of senior officers of the Department of Justice.

The portal aims to promote ease of doing business and improve ‘Contract Enforcement Regime’ in country

The portal is envisioned to be a comprehensive source of information pertaining to the legislative and policy reforms being undertaken on the “Enforcing Contracts” parameters

The portal to provide easy access to latest information on commercial cases in Dedicated Commercial Courts of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata

The portal to also provide access to repository of commercial laws for ready reference.

India got Asia’s longest and world’s fifth longest High Speed Track for automobiles

Government of India inaugurated NATRAX- the High Speed Track (HST) in Indore which Asia’s longest and world’s fifth longest High Speed Track for automobiles.

NATRAX, developed in an area of 1000 acres of land, is a one stop solution for all sorts of high speed performance tests for widest categories of vehicles from 2 wheelers to heavy tractor trailers.

The NATRAX centre has multiple test capabilities like measurements of maximum speed, acceleration, constant speed fuel consumption, emission tests through real road driving simulation, high speed handling and stability evaluation during manoeuvred such as lane change, high speed durability testing, etc. and is a Centre of excellence for Vehicle Dynamics.

HST is used for measuring the maximum speed capability of high-end cars like BMW, Mercedes, Audi, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Tesla and so forth which cannot be measured on any of the Indian test tracks.

It is one stop solution for all sorts of high speed performance tests, being one of the largest in the world. It can cater to widest category of vehicles; say from two wheelers to the heaviest tractor trailers.

Vehicle can achieve max speed of 375 Kmph on curves with steering control and it has less banking on ovals making it also one of the safest test track globally.