

Current Affairs Of September 2021

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National

Infosys Becomes 4th Indian Company to Reach 100 Billion USD M-Cap

Infosys became the 4th Indian company and 2nd Indian software company after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to cross the 100 billion USD mark in terms of market capitalization (m-cap).

TCS, Reliance Industries and HDFC bank are other Indian companies that have crossed the 100 billion mark in terms of m-cap.

NSO: India's GDP in Q1 FY22 Grow by 20.1%; Fiscal Deficit in April-July 2021 Reached 21.3% As

per the data of the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's Gross Domestic



Product (GDP) in the first quarter of the financial year 2021-22 (Q1 FY22) (i.e. April to June 2021) grew by **20.1 percent** as compared to a contraction of **24.4 (-24.4) percent** in Q1 FY21.

- **GDP at Constant Prices (2011-12):** It is estimated at Rs 32.38 lakh crore in Q1 FY22, as against Rs 26.95 lakh crore in Q1 FY21 (a growth of **20.1 percent**).

- **Gross Value Added (GVA) at Constant Prices:** It is estimated at Rs 30.48 lakh crore in Q1 FY22, as against Rs 25.66 lakh crore in Q1 of FY21 (a growth of **18.8 percent**).

Delhi Tops Forbes India's List of World's Most Surveilled Cities

Delhi tops the the Forbers India Report on the **Most Surveilled Cities in the World** with 1,826.6 CCTV cameras per square(sq) mile. Delhi is followed by **London** with 1,138 and **Chennai** with 609.9 CCTV Cameras per sq miles in 2nd and 3rd spot respectively.

Mumbai, Maharashtra has secured 18th spot with 157.4 cameras per sq miles.

Indian Army set to procure over 100 "SkyStriker" – a type of suicide drones

In September 2021, Indian Army signed a **Rs. 100 crore** worth contract with

the Joint Venture between India's Alpha Design & Israel's Elbit Security



Systems, for the

procurement of over **100** – 'SkyStrikers' under its emergency procurement powers. All

the 'SkyStriker' type drones will be manufactured in the Bangalore manufacturing unit of **Alpha Design**.

i. They are also known as "**Suicide Drones**", because of its autonomous system that is designed to directly crash over the target with its pre-loaded 5 kgs of Warhead.

ii. Previously in August 2021, Alpha Design signed 2 defence procurement contracts with the Indian Air Force (IAF).

About Indian Army:

Established – 1st April, 1895

Chief of the Army Staff – Manoj Mukund Naravane

Mumbai became First South Asian City To Launch CAP

State environment, tourism and protocol minister of

Maharashtra, **Aaditya Thackeray** launched the first ever Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Mumbai, Maharashtra. Mumbai



has become the **first South Asian city** to launch CAP.

The CAP will ensure better planning and growth for climate resilient infrastructure and mitigation efforts.

Highlights

i. Mumbai has joined **C-40 Cities Network** December 2020. By following the compliance with guidance of C-40, a CAP will be drafted.

ii. BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is

developing the climate action plan and technical support is provided by the World Resource Institute of India.

About Mumbai Climate Action Plan(MCAP)

i.It would have six thematic action areas such as sustainable waste management, urban greening and biodiversity, urban flooding and water resource management, building energy efficiency, air quality and sustainable mobility.

ii.Assessment will be done by using satellite imagery data.

About C-40 Cities:

i.C40 is a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change. Chair of C40 – Eric Garcetti.

ii.The cities from India that are part of the C40 are **Delhi NCT, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai.**(Bengaluru is Temporarily Inactive).

1st Hurun India Future unicorn List 2021: India became world's 3rd largest startup ecosystem, after US & China

In accordance with the first **Hurun India Future unicorn List 2021'** released by Hurun Research Institute, India became the third largest Unicorn ecosystem in the world after the United States (US) and China as India have **51** Unicorns worth \$168 billion, and **32** Gazelles and **54** Cheetahs.

- This list is a ranking of India's startups founded in the 2000s, having a value of US\$200 million (Rs 1,500 crore), and have not yet been listed on the stock exchange.
- Number of Unicorns in the US and China is at 396 and 277 respectively. The United Kingdom (UK) is at 4th position with 32 unicorns and Germany at 5th spot with 18.

About Hurun India:

It is a research, media and investments group.

Chairman– Rupert Hoogerwerf

Managing Director– Anas Rahman

Headquarter– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Byju's Acquired Gradeup; Rebranded as Byju's Exam Prep

Ed-Tech Unicorn **Byju's** has acquired the online exam preparation

platform **Gradeup** to boost

the ed tech's presence in

the online competitive

exam preparation category.

Following the acquisition

of Gradeup, it has been rebranded as **Byju's Exam Prep**.

- This marks the 8th acquisition by Byju's in 2021.
- Gradeup headquartered in Noida, Uttar Pradesh was established in 2015 by Shobhit Bhatnagar, Sanjeev Kumar, and Vibhu Bhushan.



MoE Dharmendra Pradhan released 6th NIRF Rankings 2021 for HEIs; IIT-Madras Topped Overall

i. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education (MoE) released the **6th NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) Rankings 2021** of Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) of India in 11 categories from New Delhi.

ii.The ranking has been topped by IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Madras, Tamil Nadu in the overall category which is followed by IISc (Indian Institute of Science) Bengaluru, Karnataka at 2nd and IIT Bombay, Maharashtra at 3rd place.

iii.All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi retains top slot in Medical for the 4th consecutive year.

About National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):

Establishment– 2015

Parent Ministry– Ministry of Education (MoE)

Headquarter– New Delhi

DRDO handed over MRSAM to IAF; India's 1st Emergency Landing Facility of IAF Plane on NH inaugurated on NH925, Rajasthan

i. the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over the **first deliverable Firing**

Unit (FU) of Medium Range

Surface to Air Missile

(MRSAM) "Barak-

8" System to Indian Air

Force (IAF) at Air Force Station, Jaisalmer in Rajasthan.



ii. MRSAM (IAF) is an advanced network centric combat Air Defence System developed by DRDO in collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), and PPP (Public Private Partnership) in Indian industry.

iii. The Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) inaugurated a 3-km emergency landing strip or Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) at **Satta-Gandhav stretch** on National Highway 925 in Barmer, Rajasthan for IAF planes. NH-925 is India's first national highway to be used as ELF of IAF aircraft.

iv. The ELF strip has been developed by **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** in association with IAF.

Medicines from the Sky project: Telangana became 1st Indian State to launch BVLoS drones to send medicines

i. Union Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia**, Ministry of Civil Aviation launched 'Medicines from the Sky (MFTS)' in Vikarabad district of Telangana to send



medicines to primary healthcare centres using drones. With this Telangana became the first Indian state to use drones for Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLoS) to deliver the payload.

ii. MFTS is an initiative of the Government of Telangana led by the emerging technologies wing of Telangana's IT Department in association with **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, **NITI** (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, and **HealthNet Global** (Apollo Hospitals).

About Ministry of Civil Aviation:

Jyotiraditya Scindia Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
Minister of State (MoS) – General Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.) (Constituency- Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh))

Female Candidates allowed to attend NDA

Exams Indian Armed Forces allowed the entry of female candidates into the armed forces through National Defence Academy (NDA) after the intervention of the Supreme Court (SC) of India. Previously, a Supreme Court bench of justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Hrishikesh Roy, questioned the gender bias followed in the recruitment of candidates for the Indian Armed Forces.

i. The NDA Exams that was set to be held on 5th September was postponed to 14th November after the intervention of the Supreme Court, and now female candidates were allowed to appear in the examination.

ii. Previously, In February 2020, Female candidates serving in Short Service Commission (SSC) were permitted for Permanent Commission after similar intervention by the Supreme Court.

Note – During 2021 Republic Day, Bhawana Kanth & Swati Rathore became the 1st women pilots to participate in the Republic Day parade.

About Supreme Court of India:

Established – 26 January 1950

The Supreme Court of India is a Constitutional body, established under the provisions of **Article 124**

Total Strength of Judges – 34 (including Chief Justice of India (CJI) but Currently there are 33 judges including CJI in SC)

PM Narendra Modi lays Foundation Stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh University in Aligarh

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh will establish the university in the memory of Jat social reformer Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh.



Highlights

- The University will have the department of modern defence studies, defence manufacturing- related technologies and manpower development.
- It will be spread over an area of 92 acres at Lodha village and Musepur Kareem Karouli village of Kol tehsil in Aligarh, it will provide affiliation to 395 colleges of the Aligarh division.

About Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh

- Raja Mehendra Pratap Singh was born in a socio-economically influential Jat family of Mursan in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh 1886.
- He was a Jat freedom fighter, social reformist, journalist and writer. He served as the President in the **Provincial government of India**, the Indian government that served in exile during World War I.
- In 1979, the Government of India issued a **postage stamp** in his honour. He is popularly known as **Aryan Peshwa**.
- Singh was known as an **unofficial envoy of Afghanistan**.

Sansad TV Launched by Vice President, PM and Speaker of Lok Sabha

Vice President and Chairman of Rajya Sabha M. Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla jointly launched 'Sansad' TV. The launch of Sansad TV coincides with **International Day of Democracy- 15th September** .

- The programming of this TV will primarily be in **four categories** – functioning of

Parliament and democratic institutions, governance and implementation of schemes, policies, history, and culture of India and issues, interests, concerns of contemporary nature.

TCS Becomes 2nd Indian company to hit USD 200 Bn M-cap after RIL

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) of TATA groups becomes the **2nd Indian** company to hit the **200 Billion USD** market capitalization (**M-Cap**) mark. Reliance Industries (**RIL**) was the first Indian Company to achieve the feat.



- Among the most valued software companies, TCS is ranked behind Accenture (USD 218bn) and ahead of IBM (USD 123 bn).
- TCS, which completes 50 years, listed on the stock exchanges in 2004, crossed the USD 50-Bn market value in December 2010, USD 100 Bn in April 2018 and USD 150 Bn in December 2020.

IRCTC Launched India's 1st Indigenous Luxury Cruise Liner

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) started **India's first indigenous luxury cruise liner** on 18th September 2021.



IRCTC has partnered with **Cordelia Cruises**, operated by **Waterways Leisure Tourism Private Limited** to promote and market India's 1st luxury cruise.

- The cruise will sail to national and international destinations like Goa Diu, Lakshadweep, Kochi and Sri Lanka.

Kovalam, Eden beaches get Blue Flag tag

Two more new Indian beaches– **Kovalam in Tamil Nadu** and **Eden in Puducherry** received Blue Flag Certification from Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark (FEE) in 2021. With this, India received a Blue tag for 10 beaches.

- It also issued re-certification for 8 nominated beaches Shivrajpur-Gujarat, Ghoghla-Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri-Karnataka, Kappad-Kerala, Rushikonda-Andhra Pradesh, Golden-Odisha and Radhanagar- Andaman and Nicobar, which were awarded the Blue Flag certificate in 2020.

About Blue Flag Certificate

i. The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised voluntary awards for beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.

ii. It is issued by Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark (FEE) and international jury comprising of members from IUCN, UNWTO, UNEP and UNESCO etc.

iii. It started in 1987 and in 2001 European Blue Flag became International Blue Flag.

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju Inaugurated India's 1st Sports Arbitration Centre in Gujarat

In September 2021, the Union Law Minister **Kiren Rijiju** inaugurated India's 1st 'Sports Arbitration Centre of India' (SACI) in **Gujarat**. The SACI will serve as an independent body to redress the disputes in the sports sector and expand the country's sports sector.

- The Ministry of Law and Justice will provide all the legal backing to the SACI.

- The SACI will be promoted by Ahmedabad-based **SE TransStadia Pvt Ltd**. They will provide the centre and process, which will be governed by the international laws of sports.
- Under SACI, known independent arbitrators will be listed out by TransStadia and those arbitrators will settle the sports issues and they will be paid directly by the disputing parties.

About Ministry of Law and Justice:

Union Minister – Kiren Rijiju (Constituency – Arunachal West, Arunachal Pradesh)

Ministry of State – S. P. Singh Baghel (Constituency – Agra, Uttar Pradesh)

Govt Dissolves Ordnance Factory Board, reorganizing to Seven Defence PSUs

As part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) to corporatize the

production in Defence sector, Defence

Ministry of India **had dissolved the**

Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).



- **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)** is an entity under the Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence (MoD) which supplies critical arms and ammunition to the three-armed forces and the paramilitary.

i. As per the announcement issued by the Government of India on May 16, 2020, the management, control, operations and maintenance of 41 production units and identified non-production units under OFB will be transferred to the wholly government owned **seven defence PSUs (Public Sector Units)** with effect from October 1, 2021.

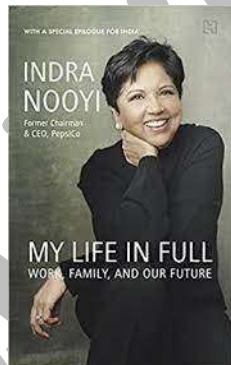
ii. The employees of OFB (Group A, B & C) who are working in production and non-production units will be moved to the new DPSUs on terms of foreign service without any deputation allowance (deemed deputation) initially for a period of two years.

Seven new companies are:

- Troop Comforts Ltd. and Gliders India are reorganised for manufacturing textiles.
- Munitions India Ltd., India Optel Ltd., Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd., Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd., and Yantra India Ltd. are into manufacturing machinery and equipment.

IndraNooyi Penned a Memoir Titled 'My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our

Future' IndraNooyi, former Chairman and CEO of PepsiCo Inc, has penned her memoir titled 'My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future'. The book is published by Hachette India.



- The book offers a firsthand view of IndraNooyi's life, career and the sacrifices she made.
- The book features the life events of IndraNooyi that shaped her from childhood in India to her role as a senior executive at PepsiCo.

About IndraNooyi:

i. IndraNooyi is an Indian-American business executive, who served as the chairperson and chief executive officer (CEO) of PepsiCo from 2006 to 2019.

ii. She was the first woman of colour and an immigrant

to head a Fortune 50 company.

iii. She is serving as the director on the board of Amazon since 2019.

iv. The government of India honoured her with **Padma Bhushan** in 2007 for trade and industry.

New Book 'The Fractured Himalaya: India Tibet China 1949-1962' by Nirupama Rao

Retired Indian Diplomat Nirupama Menon

Rao (Nirupama Rao) has authored a new book

titled 'The Fractured Himalaya: India Tibet China 1949-1962', which provides an understanding of India-China relations.

The book published by Penguin Viking, owned by Penguin Random House, is based on archival materials and her personal experience as India's ambassador to China.

- Nirupama Menon Rao, 1973 batch IFS officer from Kerala, served as India's Foreign Secretary (2009-2011).
- She was the 1st woman high commissioner from India to Sri Lanka and the 1st woman ambassador to the People's Republic of China and also served as the Ambassador of India to the United States.

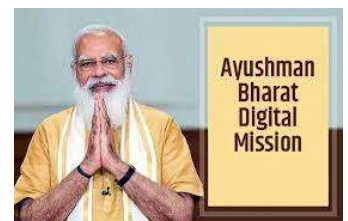
PM Modi Launches Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission to Promote Digital Health Infrastructure

The Prime

Minister (PM) Narendra

Modi launched

'Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission' (ABDM)



via video conference. The program was organized on **World Tourism Day** (27th September). It was launched in the presence of Mansukh Mandaviya,

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.

Objective – To develop the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country.

- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission will provide a digital health ID to people which will contain their health records. This mission was launched under the pilot project National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).
- The mission was launched under the pilot project National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).
- It will help connect digital health solutions of hospitals across the country. All Indians will get a **digital health ID** under this scheme. Every citizen's health record will now be digitally secure.

About National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)

Launched – August 15, 2020.

- The NDHM is implemented by the **National Health Authority (NHA)** under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The NDHM is a complete **digital health ecosystem**. The digital platform will be launched with four key features — **health ID, personal health records, Digi Doctor** and **health facility registry**.

New Book Titled “The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New India” Authored by Kaveree Bamzai

Senior journalist **Kaveree Bamzai** has authored a new book titled “**The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New India**” which



collocates the careers of Aamir Khan, Shahrukh Khan and Salman Khan with turbulent times in Indian history.

The book published by Westland Non-Fiction explores their careers and examines their social and emotional impact on Indian audiences.

- Kaveree Bamzai is an independent journalist who has worked with India Today, The Indian Express and The Times of India,
- She was the 1st and the only woman editor of India Today.

International

UNSC Adopts Resolution on Afghanistan Under India's Chair

United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the 15-Nation body has adopted a strong resolution on Afghanistan **under India's Presidency**.



China & Russia abstained from voting on the

resolution.

- The resolution demands not to use Afghan territory to threaten or attack any country or to shelter or train terrorists, or to plan or to finance terrorist acts.

Dubai gets Ain Dubai, World's largest & Tallest Observation Wheel

The World's largest and tallest observation wheel named 'Ain Dubai' is set to be opened in Dubai, United Arab Emirates(UAE) on 21st October 2021. The ain Dubai is located at Bluewaters Island. Hyundai Engineering & Construction and Starneth Engineering were the primary design and construction contractors of Ain Dubai. The Ain Dubai is around 2 times taller than the London Eye, which will take the visitors to a **height of 250 meters**.

'Orca'- World's Largest Plant Capturing Carbon Dioxide From Air Starts In Iceland

The **World's Largest Plant** to Capture Carbon Dioxide(CO₂) from air, 'Orca' Starts Operating in Iceland. The Plant will suck in CO₂ and store it underground in the form of rock. It was started by a Swiss startup **Climeworks AG** in partnership with Icelandic carbon storage firm **Carbfix**. The plant can capture up to **4,000 tons of CO₂ per year**.



About the Orca plant-

i. The 'Orca' refers to the Icelandic word 'Orka' for meaning "energy". The plant consists of eight large containers similar in looks to those used in the shipping industry, which employ high-tech filters and fans to extract carbon dioxide.

ii. The plant has four units, each made up of two metal boxes.

Highlights

- According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the global CO₂-emissions totalled 31.5 billion tonnes in 2020. Therefore this plant will help in sucking the polluted carbon from the atmosphere.

Mechanism

- For the collection of CO₂, the plant uses fans to draw air into the collector, which has filter material inside.
- Once the filter material is filled with CO₂, the collector is closed and the temperature is raised to release the CO₂ from the material after which the highly concentrated gas can be collected.
- The CO₂ is then mixed with the water before being injected at a depth of 1,000 metres into the nearby basalt rock where it is petrified.

Accra of Ghana Named as the UNESCO's World Book Capital for 2023

Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO)



has named **Accra**, Capital of Ghana as the **UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023**, following the evaluation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee.

- Accra is the 23rd city to be named the World Book Capital since 2001.
- The celebrations will start on 23rd April 2023, World Book and Copyright Day 2023.

- **Objective** – Cities designated as UNESCO World Book Capital undertake to promote books and reading for all ages and population groups, within and across national borders, and to organize a programme of activities for the year.

Note:

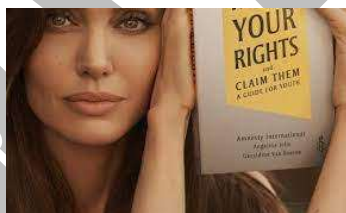
- Madrid(Spain) was the first city to be named the UNESCO World Book Capital in 2001.
- **Guadalajara** of Mexico was named the **World Book Capital of 2022**. Tbilisi, Capital of Georgia was named the World Book Capital of 2021.

Key Points:

- The city of Accra has been selected for its focus on young people and their potential contribution to the culture and wealth of Ghana.
- As the world book capital, Accra will promote the reading and writing of books in different Ghanaian languages.

Angelina Jolie has Written Child Rights Book titled “Know Your Rights and Claim Them”

The book “**Know Your Rights and Claim Them: Guide for Youth**” is written by the Hollywood actress **Angelina Jolie** in collaboration with Human Right lawyer **Geraldine Van Buren and Amnesty International**.



- The book is like a guide for every child and young person who access their rights.
- It talks about gender rights, racial equality, free expression, healthy environment and sustainable life.

- **Note** – Geraldine is one among the drafters of the United Nations Convention of the Child Right in 1989.

About Angelina Jolie

She is a hollywood actress, works for human rights awareness, for children, women and other society. she is also working as a special envoy for UN Refugee agency UNHCR.

About Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

- The CRC was adopted by the United Nations in 1989. It came into existence in 1990 after receiving the minimum of 20 ratifications. India ratified UNCRC on 11 December 1992.
- It has been ratified by all members of the UN except for the United States. It is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the history of the world.
- The Convention on the Rights of the child defines a child as “every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable, majority is attained earlier”.

AMUL Ranks 18th and France’s ‘Lactalis’ Tops in Rabobank 2021 Global Dairy Report

As per the 2021’s **Global Dairy Top 20 report** released by a Dutch multinational banking and financial services

company **Rabobank**, the

France based dairy major

company – **‘Lactalis’** became the World’s number 1 dairy company in terms of market capital. Lactalis replaced Switzerland’s Nestle , which remained as the global leader in the dairy sector for decades.



- Notably, India’s well known co-operative brand **‘AMUL’** under the cooperative body Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (**GCMMF**) also was placed at the **18th position**, from its previous 16th rank in 2020.
- Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (**GCMMF**) **has become the first**

Indian dairy Industry to spot in the global top 20 list released by Rabobank. .

Global position in 2021	Company	Country of Origin
1	Lactalis	France
2	Nestle	Switzerland
18	Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation	India

Notable points on Dairy Sector:

- **India** is the World's largest Milk producing country.
- **New Zealand** is the World's largest Milk exporter, while **China** is the top Milk importing country.

UAE, Bangladesh, Uruguay Joined as 1st Batch New Members of BRICS's NDB

On 2nd September, 2021 The New Development Bank (NDB) formerly known as 'BRICS Development Bank'



which was set up by the **BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) admitted that **Uruguay, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bangladesh** joined as the **1st batch of new members of NDB.**

Key points-

i. This new addition of countries occurred as part of its expansion drive. It is the first expansion of the NDB which got approval after a round of successful negotiations started in 2020

ii. The new expansion will provide cooperation and support to sustainable growth to the members.

About New Development Bank (NDB)– The bank was established by the BRICS group of nations. It was initially referred to as BRICS Development Bank.

NDB investment project and Capital

i. It has authorised capital of USD 100 billion, which is open for subscription by the members of the United Nations. Presently it has approved about 80 projects in all of its member countries.

ii. It has invested around USD 30 billion in projects in the areas of transport, water sanitation, digital infrastructure, clean energy, social infrastructure and urban development.

Headquarters- Shanghai, China

Founded- 2015

President- Marcos Troyjo

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)

2021 Chair- India

El Salvador Becomes First Country to Adopt Bitcoin an Official Currency

Central American country **El Salvador** becomes the first country to adopt

bitcoin as a national currency. The country has passed a resolution to make Bitcoin as a legal currency alongside the US dollar on last June 2021 and bill was



the approved by **President Nayib Bukele**. San Salvador is the capital of El Salvador.

i. 200 Bitcoin teller machines are being installed across the country for currency conversions to access Bitcoin.

ii. The country launched the digital wallet called "**Chivo**" or "**Cool**" which offered \$30 of free Bitcoin for the adaption.

iii. El Salvador had purchased its first 400 Bitcoins. Bitcoin will help to prevent the remittance of banking transactions which will be processed by 1.5 million citizens living in other countries send money home.

About Bitcoin :-

Bitcoin (₿) is a decentralized digital currency, without a central bank or single administrator, that can be sent from user to user on the peer-to-peer bitcoin network without any intermediaries.

It is world's largest cryptocurrency which was invented in 2008 by an unknown person or group of people using the name Satoshi Nakamoto of Japan.

Om Birla Addressed the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament 2021 in Vienna, Austria

The 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) 2021 was held in Vienna, Austria from September 7-8, 2021. The Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla participated in the conference, organized by the Austrian Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations (UN).

Note- Austrian Parliament is the first national parliament in history to co-host the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

Indian Delegation

The Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Harivansh with Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Dr Ajay Kumar, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat and Rajeev Dutta, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Speaker of Lok Sabha, other senior officers also participated.

The **theme** of the Conference is **Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism** that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet.

About Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

i. IPU is an international organisation of national parliaments. It was established in 1889 in Paris.

ii. It works with close co-operation with the **United Nation (UN)**, regional parliamentary organisations, international intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations for the arbitration of conflict.

Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

Secretary General- Martin Chungong

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually chaired 13th BRICS Summit 2021

The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi chaired

the 13th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Summit 2021 virtually on the theme 'BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus'.

ii. The summit saw the adoption of the '**New Delhi Declaration**'.

iii. Indian PM appreciated the cooperation received from BRICS partners which led to the initiation of **several new initiatives** including the first BRICS Digital Health Summit; the first BRICS Ministerial Joint Statement on multilateral reforms

About BRICS(Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa):

Establishment– 2006
2021's Chair – India

IIM Ahmedabad Adjudged as Best B-School in India: QS Global MBA Rankings: Global 2022

The **QS Global MBA Rankings: Global 2022**, released by Quacquarelli Symonds(QS), has adjudged the Indian

Institute of Management

(IIM) Ahmedabad, Gujarat as the best business school(B-

school) in India. The IIM Ahmedabad has achieved the 46th rank on the list which features around 280 business schools from across the globe. The list is topped by Stanford Graduate School of Business, Stanford, California, United States of America(USA).



- IIM Bangalore (ranked 50) and IIM Ahmedabad are the only Indian Institutes among the top 50.
- Stanford Graduate School of Business topped the list followed by Harvard Business School and Penn (Wharton), which jointly secured the 2nd Rank.

QS Business Masters Rankings 2022:

QS World University Rankings: Business Masters Rankings 2022 ranks the Masters in Business Analytics, Masters in Finance, Masters in

Management, Masters in Marketing and Masters in Supply Chain Management.

About Quacquarelli Symonds (QS):

QS is the world's leading provider of services, analytics, and insight to the global higher education sector.

CEO– Nunzio Quacquarelli

Headquarters– London, England

AUKUS- a New Trilateral Defence & Security Partnership between the US, UK and Australia

The United States(US), United

Kingdom(UK) and Australia established a trilateral security partnership named – ‘AUKUS’ in order to strengthen diplomatic, security and defence



cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific region**. The partnership was announced between the US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison in a virtual meeting.

Objective– To ensure peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region and key focus areas are cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and additional undersea capabilities.

Highlights

i.AUKUS is a trilateral partnership, which will provide exchange of technology, services, research and development and defence equipment.

ii.It is the **first initiative** under which **Australia is acquiring nuclear-powered submarines** for its Royal Australian Navy (RNS). Australia remains committed to fulfilling all of its obligations as a non-nuclear weapons state, including regulations under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

iii.Australia's nuclear-powered submarines, **when they deploy, will be armed with conventional weapons only and not nuclear weapons.**

Importance of the Alliance

The AUKUS and another alliance QUAD are formed with a vision for a safer and more secure Indo-Pacific. **QUAD** countries are the US and Australia formed alliance with India and Japan.

Note – US President Joe Biden will host the first-ever in person Quad Leaders Summit at the White House on 24 September 2021.

Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri's New Book “Translating Myself and Others” to be Released **Jhumpa Lahiri**, the Pulitzer Prize-winning fiction writer, has authored a new book titled “**Translating Myself and Others**”, which is set to be released in **2022**. The book includes several essays (previously published and unpublished) about translation. The book has been acquired by the **Princeton University Press**.

About the book:

- i.**The essays featured in the book reflects Jhumpa Lahiri's experiences with translation, self-translation and writing across languages.
- ii.**The book also includes an essay on her ambition to translate “**The Metamorphoses**” by the Roman poet **Ovid**.

About Jhumpa Lahiri:

i.Jhumpa Lahiri born in London, United Kingdom, is an author and translator of Indian origin. She is serving as the director of Princeton University's program in creative writing.

ii.Her first book, a collection of short stories titled “**Interpreter of Maladies**” won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2000

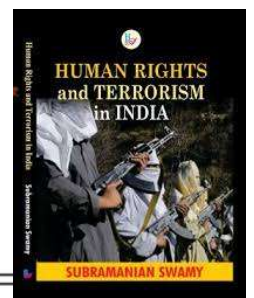
iii.Her book titled “**The Namesake**” was later made into a movie in 2006.

Other books:

- Unaccustomed Earth.
- The Lowland
- Whereabouts: A novel

A book “Human Rights and Terrorism in India” by Subramanian Swamy

BJP MP Subramanian Swamy has authored a book “**Human Rights and Terrorism in India**” which traces how the combating of terrorism can be harmonised with human and fundamental rights within reasonable restrictions that are



permitted by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court.

- The book was published by **Har Anand Publications pte Ltd.**
- The book mentions the release of three dreaded terrorists in exchange of hijacked Indian Airlines passengers in Afghanistan's Kandahar in 1999 as the "**worst capitulation**" to terrorists in India's modern history.

About Subramanian Swamy

i. Subramanian Swamy is the founder of the Janata Party and he served as its chairman till the merger of Janata Party with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

ii. Swamy served as a member of the Planning Commission of India and the Cabinet Minister of Commerce and Law during the 1990 and 1991.

iii. He was also the Chairman of the Commission on Labour Standards and International Trade.

Books Of Subramanian Swamy

He has authored more than 20 books, some of them are:

- Himalayan Challenge: India, China and the Quest for Peace
- RESET: Regaining India's Economic Legacy
- Economic Growth in China and India, 1952–70
- India's economic performance and reforms: a perspective for the new millennium

UNESCO declares MDD in 'Amazon of Europe' as World's 1st 5-country Biosphere Reserve

i. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) declared Europe's **Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD)**, the largest riverine protected area on the continent known as 'Amazon of Europe' as the world's first five-country biosphere reserve.

Key Features of Amazon of Europe:

ii. **Countries covered**– Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia.

iii. **Rivers covered**– Mura, Drava and Danube

iii. **Total area of the reserve**– Million Hectares

About UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization):

2021 is the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development

Establishment– 1945

Director-General– Audrey Azoulay

Headquarters– Paris, France

World's highest EV charging station inaugurated at Kaza, Himachal Pradesh

The world's highest Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station was inaugurated at 500 feet in **Kaza**, in the Spiti Valley, Lahaul and Spiti district, **Himachal Pradesh**.



The charging station will support all EV Scooters and cars.

- The EV charging facility was installed by **goEgo Network**, a Pune-based EV Charging infra startup.
- Bharat AC and Dual Socket Type 2 Chargers, installed by goEgo in Western Himalayas have 'Make in India' certification and compliance with the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) and Open Charge Alliance (OCA) Certification.
- goEgo collaborated with TVS Motor Company to promote EV infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh.

Iran became the 9th Full Member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

In September 2021, **Iran** was appointed as

the **9th** permanent

member state of the

Shanghai Cooperation



Organization (SCO) at the 21st Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

- Prior to getting the permanent membership of SCO, Iran was one of the Observer member states of SCO. Iran received observer status in 2005.

About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

i. It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation formed on **15 June 2001** in Shanghai (China). It is the successor of Shanghai Five, a mutual security agreement formed in 1996 between China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.

ii. SCO strengthens mutual trust among the member states, promotes their effective cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, education, transport, etc.

ii. Members of SCO:

- **Permanent Member States:** India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. (Currently added – Iran)
- **Observer Member States:** Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia.

Highlights of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to USA from 22-25 September 2021

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** visited the United States of America (USA) from 22 to 25 September 2021 and participated in the **1st** in-person **QUAD Leaders' Summit** in Washington D.C., the USA, along with Australian Prime Minister **Scott Morrison**, Japanese Prime Minister **Yoshihide Suga**, and US President Joe Biden.

- The QUAD meeting was hosted by Joe Biden. QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) countries – includes **India, Japan, the USA, and Australia**.
- The 1st-ever QUAD Leaders' summit was held virtually in March 2021.

Key Points:

i. Fellowship programme: They have announced a fellowship programme to allow students from the 4 countries to pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at US universities.

ii. PM addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 25, 2021.

iii. PM had a meeting with **Kamala Harris**, Vice President of the USA, in Washington DC and discussed India's National Hydrogen Energy Mission (NHEM).

iv. The PM had a Bilateral meeting with Australian PM Scott Morrison ahead of the Quad Leaders' Summit and discussed the issues of bilateral, regional and global importance.

Defence

'KAZIND-21' – Joint Military Exercise between India & Kazakhstan held at Kazakhstan

On 1st September 2021, Indian Army took part in "KAZIND-21" – a joint military exercise between India and Kazakhstan at **Aisha Bibi village of Kazakhstan**. 90



soldiers from Indian Army participated in the 5th edition of the KAZIND, an annual bilateral exercise, that is planned to be held between **September 1 to 10, 2021**.

i. The 10-day long exercise is designed to share expertise between the armies in the field of Counter-terrorism operations.

ii. The 4th edition of KAZIND was conducted at Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh in September 2019.

About Kazakhstan:

Capital – Nur-Sultan

Currency – Tenge

President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

28th Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 'SIMBEX' 2021 held in South China Sea

i. On September 2-4, 2021, the 3 days 28th Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise '**SIMBEX-2021**' was held between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the southern edge of the South China Sea. It was hosted by RSN as 'at sea only' i.e. without any physical interactions due to COVID-19.

ii. The **India Navy** was represented by the following:

- Guided Missile Destroyer INS (Indian Naval Ship) Ranvijay with a ship borne helicopter,
- ASW (Anti-submarine warfare) Corvette INS Kiltan
- Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora
- P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

About Singapore:

Capital– Singapore

Currency– Singapore dollar

Prime Minister– Lee Hsien Loong

India & Australia conducts biennial Maritime Warfare exercise – 'AUSINDEX 21'

Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) conducts the 4th Edition of biennial Maritime Warfare exercise – "**AUSINDEX 21**" in the North Australian Exercise Area from 6th to 10th September, 2021. Indian Naval Ships (INS) **Shivalik &**

Kadmatt, under the Command of Rear Admiral Tarun Sobti, participated in the Naval exercise.

i. HMAS Warramunga, an Anzac Class Frigate, represents the Australian side in the exercise.

ii. The Naval Exercise comes ahead of the **1st ever "2+2" Foreign and Defence Ministers meeting** that is scheduled to be held between India & Australia in November 2021 at **New Delhi**.

India Participated in A Military Exercise Zapad 2021, Hosted by Russia

14

days long, Russia's Multi Nation Exercise **Zapad 2021** is conducting from 3rd to 16th September at Nizhniy in Russia. Indian Army took part in 'ZAPAD 2021' with 200 personnel mainly from the Naga Regiment participated as an all '**Arms Combined Task Force**' for the exercise, which is one of the theatre levels exercises of the Russian armed forces.

- The aim of the conducting exercise focuses primarily on operations against terrorists. More than dozen countries from Eurasia and South Asia will also participate in the same exercise. Zapad, meaning "west".
- One of the main event of **Russian-Belarusian strategic exercises** will be conducted between September 10-16 at nine sites in Russia, the Baltic Sea, and also five sites in Belarus.
- For the first time, Armenia participated in Russia's Zapad 2021 strategic drills, after the military defeat of 2020.
- The exercise met symbolic contingents from Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, India, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Sri Lanka, and observers are to be sent by China, Vietnam, Myanmar, Pakistan and Uzbekistan.



India launched its 1st Satellite & Nuclear Missile Tracking Ship INS Dhruv

i. India has launched its first satellite and nuclear-missile tracking ship INS (Indian Naval Ship) Dhruv. It is the first of its kind **ocean surveillance ship (OSS)** that is capable of tracking ballistic missiles at a long-range.



ii. It was launched by National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval** in the presence of Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh from Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), its commission site.

iii. It is built by the **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)** in collaboration with the DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) and NTRO (National Technical Research Organisation).

About Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)

Establishment– 1952

Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)– Hemant Khatri

Parent Ministry– Ministry of Defence

Headquarter– Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

South Korea, 1st nation to successfully test launch SLBM without nuclear weapons; North Korea tested rail-launched ballistic missiles

i. After North Korea, now South Korea successfully test-fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) becoming the 7th country in the world to do so. It also became the first country without nuclear weapons to develop such a system.

ii. The SLBM was fired underwater from its newly commissioned **3,000 ton class Dosan Ahn Chang-ho submarine**.

iii. North Korea successfully test fired two short-range ballistic missiles from a train for the first time during a drill of its **Railway Mobile Missile Regiment**.

About South Korea:

Capital– Seoul

Currency– South Korean won

15th India-Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise ‘Surya Kiran’ begins at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhandi.

The 14-day long 15th India-Nepal Joint Military Training exercise Surya Kiran commenced on September 20, 2021 in the Himalayan border town of Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand in India.

ii. The Indian Army is represented by **Garhwal Regiment**. More than 650 soldiers are participating from both sides.

iii. The exercise is a part of an initiative to develop inter-operability and sharing expertise between the two nations.

Indian Army to procure 118 Main Battle Tanks Arjun Mk-1A worth Rs 7,523 crore

i. On September 23, 2021, the **Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF)** of Avadi, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) grabbed Rs 7,523 crore order from the Ministry of



Defence (MoD) for the supply of 118 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) Arjun Mk-1A for the Indian Army. The tank is known as the “hunter killers”.

ii. It is a new variant of MBT Arjun Tank Mk-1A with 72 new features, more indigenous content, and numerous upgrades.

iii. MoD also promulgated a framework for enhanced and synergised utilization of simulators by the three (Army, Navy and Air Force) Services and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

About Ministry of

Defence (MoD):

Union Minister- Rajnath Singh (Constituency- Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh)

Minister of State– Ajay Bhatt (Constituency- Nainital–Udhamsingh Nagar, Uttarakhand)



Appointments or Resign/Retired

Pankaj Kumar Singh Appointed as New BSF Director General

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed **Pankaj Kumar Singh** as the Director General (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF). He will take charge after the retirement of Indo Tibetan Border Force (ITBP) DG Surjeet Singh (S) Deswal, who is holding additional charge as DG of BSF after the tenure Rakesh Asthana.

About Pankaj Kumar Singh:

i. He is a Indian Police Service (IPS) Officer of 1988 batch from Rajasthan cadre. The office tenure will last till his superannuation on December 31, 2021.

ii. He is presently serving as the special director general (DG) of the force that **guards over 6,300 km** of the Indian fronts with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Other Appointments:

- **Sanjay Arora**, IPS officer of 1988 batch from Tamil Nadu cadre was appointed as the **new Chief of ITBP** (Indo Tibetan Border Force). He would succeed SS Deswal.
- **Balaji Srivastav**, IPS officer of 1988 batch from AGMUT cadre was appointed as the Director General (DG) of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).

The Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC)-

i. The committee is headed by the **Prime Minister**, The Minister of Home Affairs and Minister in-charge of the concerned Ministry are the members of this committee.

About Border Security Force (BSF)

- The BSF is India's primary border guarding force. This paramilitary force is **one of the five Central Armed Police Forces in India**.
- Its mandate is to guard the country's land border during peacetime and also to prevent transnational crime. BSF was established as a response to the **1965 war with Pakistan** when that country tried to expand its own borders at India's expense.

Founded– 1 December 1965

President Appointed Acting Chief Justice for High Courts of Telangana, Sikkim & Karnataka

The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has appointed the Acting Chief Justice (ACJ) for the High Courts (HC) of Telangana, Sikkim & Karnataka by exercising his power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India.

The current Chief Justice (CJ) of these high courts will be relinquished of the charge following their appointment as the Judges of the Supreme court of India.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India:

- i. CJI NV Ramana administered the oath of office for the 9 new judges on 31st August 2021 at the auditorium of the Supreme Court's additional building complex.
- ii. For the first time, 9 judges took the oath of office at one go in the Supreme Court of India.
- iii. The appointment of the 9 Judges including 3 women, takes the total strength of judges of the Supreme court to **33** (including the Chief Justice of India (CJI)), the maximum possible strength of the Supreme Court is **34**.

Justice AM Khanwilkar Appointed as Chairman of SCLSC:

Justice AM Khanwilkar, the second senior-most judge in the Supreme Court, has been appointed as the **Chairman** of Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC). He succeeded Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman (RF Nariman) who retired on 12th August 2021.

About Supreme court of India:

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, fixes the maximum number of judges in the Supreme Court at 30 judges (excluding the Chief Justice of India).

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2019 increases this number from 30 to 33 (excluding CJI).

The Supreme court of India came into being on 26th January 1950.

Chief Justice of India – Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana

Located in Delhi

Prashant Kumar, President of Bar Association of India, Elected to the Board of ILAC

Prashant Kumar the president of the Bar Association of India has been unanimously elected to the board of directors of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC), with effect from 2nd

September 2021.

He became the 2nd Asian to serve on the board of directors of ILAC.

- ILAC is a Sweden based international non-governmental organisation dedicated to strengthening the rule of law, empowering legal professionals, and ensuring equal access to justice.

About Prashant Kumar:

i. Prashant Kumar has served as the President of **LAWASIA** (The Law Association for Asia and the Pacific) from 2015-2017.

ii. He has played major roles in constitutional matters related to pricing of natural resources, dissolution of Legislative Assembly, disqualification of members of Assembly, powers of Speaker of the House and matters under Prevention of Corruption Act at various High Courts and Supreme Court among others.

About International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC):

ILAC comprises more than 50 legal organisations and experts representing over 3 million legal professionals across the globe.

President – Elizabeth Howe, United Kingdom

Headquarters – Enskede, Sweden

Piyush Goyal appointed as India's Sherpa for G20; G20 Health Ministers' Meeting 2021 held in Rome, Italy

i. On September 7, 2021, Union Minister Piyush Vedprakash Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 (Group of Twenty) by replacing former Union Minister **Suresh Prabhu**.



ii. India will be part of the G20 Troika (preceding, current, and incoming G20 Presidencies) from December 1, 2021 till

November 30, 2024.

iii. On September 5-6, 2021, the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting 2021 was held under the Italian Presidency in Rome, Lazio (Italy). It was chaired by **Roberto Speranza**, Italian Minister of Health.

About Group of Twenty (G20):

The 2021 G20 is under the Italian Presidency. It is focusing on three broad, interconnected pillars of action: People, Planet, and Prosperity.

Establishment– 1999

Members– 20 (19 countries + European Union)

President Ram Nath Kovind Appointed Governors of Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland and Uttarakhand

Ram Nath Kovind, President of India has appointed new governors for 4 states – Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland and Uttarakhand.

The following appointments will take effect from the date they assume changes in their respective offices.

- **Banwarilal Purohit**, Governor of Tamil Nadu who has been holding the additional charge of Governor of Punjab has been appointed as regular Governor of Punjab.
- **Ravindra Narayan Ravi (RN Ravi)**, Governor of Nagaland has been appointed as the Governor of Tamil Nadu.
- **Prof. Jagdish Mukhi**, Governor of Assam, has been given additional charge to discharge the functions of the Governor of Nagaland in addition to his duties until regular arrangements are made.
- Lieutenant General (retired) **Gurmit Singh**, former Deputy Chief of Army Staff has been appointed Governor of Uttarakhand.

Taliban's Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund appointed as Acting PM of Afghanistan



Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, a leading member of the Taliban has been appointed as the acting Prime Minister (PM) of the Islamic Emirate of **Afghanistan**.

- He will head the 33-member team for an interim government of Afghanistan.
- Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, co-founder of Taliban and Molavi Abdul Salam Hanafi has been appointed as the deputy Prime Ministers of Afghanistan.

About Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund:

i. Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund has been the head of the Taliban's Rehbari Shura, or leadership council, for more than 20 years.

ii. He has served as the foreign minister and deputy PM during the last Taliban rule in 1996 to 2001.

iii. He has been described by the UN sanctions list as a "political advisor" of late Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Taliban leader

Other appointments:

i. Amir Khan Muttaqi has been appointed as foreign minister of Afghanistan.

ii. Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai has been appointed as deputy foreign minister

iii. Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, son of the Taliban founder Mullah Omar, has been named as the defence minister.

iv. Hidayatullah Badri appointed as acting minister of finance.

v. Fasihuddin Badakhshani has been named the chief of the army.

About Afghanistan:

Acting Prime Minister– Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund

Capital- Kabul

Currency– Afghan afghani

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani resigns

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijaybhai Ramniklalbhairupani, 65, submitted his resignation to the Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat. He succeeded Anandiben Patel and was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Gujarat on 7 August 2016.

- The reason of his resignation was remaining unknown and next Gujarat Assembly Elections are scheduled in December 2022 to elect 182 members.
- He is a member of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly representing Rajkot West.
- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel, Gujarat BJP chief CR Patil and state vice president Gordhan Zadafia are in the naming list of next Chief Minister of Gujarat to succeed Vijay Rupani.

Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura Appointed as Chairman of National Commission for Minorities

Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura took charge as the Chairman of National Commission of Minorities (NCM) in the presence of Minister of Minority Affairs,



Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi. The event was conducted in Delhi. He succeeded the outgoing chairman of the commission, Ghayorul Hasan.

About Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura

- He has served as the IPS (Indian Police Service) officer and also national spokesperson of Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP).
- He has won several awards such as the **President's Police Medal**, police medal for meritorious services, **Shiromani Sikh Sahitkar Award** and Sikh scholar award.

About National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

- Government of India set up a "Minorities Commission" to safeguard the interests of minorities in 1978.
- With the enactment of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, the Minorities Commission became a statutory body and was renamed as the "National Commission for Minorities" in 1993.
- Initially **Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists**

and **Zoroastrians (Parsis)** were notified under minority communities. Now, **Jains** were also notified as another minority community.

Bhupendra Patel Appointed as 17th CM of Gujarat

Bhupendra Patel was appointed as the 17th Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat by the Governor Acharya Devvrat. He succeeded Vijay Rupani, who had resigned earlier.

About Bhupendra Patel

- He is 59 year old and born in Ahmedabad, Gujarat and Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from **Ghatlodia**. Ghatlodia is a part of Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency.
- Trustee at Patidar organizations Sardar Dham and Vishwa Umiya Foundation.
- He has done his diploma in civil engineering and also served as the Ahmedabad Municipal Councillor (AMC) and the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA).
- He won the 2017 Gujarat election by a record margin of 117,000 votes.

Justice M Venugopal Appointed as Acting Chairperson of NCLAT

Justice M Venugopal, Judicial Member of the NCLAT (Chennai bench of NCLAT), has been appointed as the acting



chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), with effect from 11th September 2021.

- He is the 3rd Acting chairperson to head the NCLAT since the retirement of Chairperson Justice S J Mukhopadhaya on 14th March 2020.
- Previously **Justice Bansi Lal Bhat** and **Justice AIS Cheema** served as the acting

chairpersons of NCLAT between March 2020 and September 2021.

Note:

The government of India has appointed 31 members to the NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) and the ITAT (Income Tax Appellate Tribunal).

About Justice M Venugopal:

i. Justice M Venugopal is a former judge of the High court of Madras.

ii. He started as a Sub Judge in Tamil Nadu State Judicial served in 1997 and was later elevated to the High court of Madras in 2007.

iii. He has served as the Judicial Member of NCLAT, Principal Bench, New Delhi from October 2019 and later moved to the Chennai Bench of NCLAT in January 2021.

About National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT):

The NCLAT was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of the NCLT.

Rohit Sharma as brand ambassador of TAGG

TAGG, a Delhi based tech-driven lifestyle electronics brand, has appointed **Rohit Sharma**, the vice-captain of the Indian cricket team and captain of Mumbai Indians as its **TAGGSTER** (brand ambassador).

Fossil, the American watches and accessories firm has appointed Indian Bollywood actress **Kriti Sanon** as its brand ambassador for India.

Rohit Sharma roped in as brand ambassador of TAGG

Rohit Sharma as the brand ambassador will help steer the brand to new heights in the audio and wearable industry.

- TAGG launched its first smartwatch **TAGG Verve 2020**.
- It has also planned on launching a series of next-generation smartwatches along with a fresh range of audio products.

Kriti Sanon roped in as Fossil's brand ambassador for India

Kriti Sanon's collaboration with Fossil will extend to promoting the watch and accessories category ranging from traditional and smartwatches to leather products as well as jewellery for women.

- Recently, She was appointed as the brand ambassador of kitchenware brand **Wonderchef**.
- Sanon is a celebrity endorser for several brands and products such as Bata, Whirlpool and Cadbury Fuse etc.

Joshna Chinappa Appointed as Brand Ambassador of ASICS

The Japanese Sports equipment company Asics announced Indian squash player Joshna Chinappa as its new brand ambassador. It will bring positive change by spreading awareness about sports among the youth.

i. Asics has been working with several other athletes from various sports such as Manika Batra, Bajrang Punia, Ravindra Jadeja, Sakshi Malik, along with international athletes like Novak Djokovic etc to support youth and improve their performances.

About Joshna Chinappa

- Joshna is an Indian professional squash player born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Currently she is ranked as number 10 worldwide.
- She is a two-time Asian Championship gold medalist.
- At the 2014 Commonwealth Games Joshna, along with Dipika Pallikal Karthik, won the squash women's doubles gold medal, India's first-ever Commonwealth Games medal in the sport.

Hyperice announces Virat Kohli as Athlete investor and Brand Ambassador



A global wellness brand, Hyperice announced that Indian cricketer Virat Kohli appointed as an 'Athlete Investor' and brand ambassador.

i. Virat Kohli has joined as an Athlete Investor with several other sports persons like Footballer Erling Haaland, Tennis player Naomi Osaka etc.

Yahoo Appoints Tinder CEO Jim Lanzone as its new CEO

Yahoo has appointed Jim Lanzone, the CEO of Tinder as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with effect from 27th September 2021.

Jim Lanzone will succeed Guru Gowrappan who was named Senior Advisor to Apollo's private equity business.



- This follows the acquisition of Yahoo by Apollo Management Group for 5 billion USD.
- Apollo completed the acquisition of Yahoo formerly Verizon Media on 1st September 2021.
- Verizon retained a 10% stake in Yahoo.

Yoshihide Suga to step down as Japan's Prime Minister

Japan's prime minister, **Yoshihide Suga**, is set to step down from the Prime Minister (PM) of Japan. He was succeeded Shinzo Abe who had resigned in September 2020. Yoshihide Suga is the leader of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)

Note:

The winner of the LDP leadership election will become the prime minister due to the party's majority in the lower house of the parliament.

About Yoshihide Suga:

- He has served as a cabinet minister under former Prime Ministers Junichiro Koizumi. and Shinzo Abe.
- He served as the Chief Cabinet Secretary under

Shinzo Abe for eight years, becoming the longest-serving chief cabinet secretary.

iii. He was elected to Japan's parliament, The Diet, in 1996.

Parliament of Japan:

The Parliament of Japan, called 'The National Diet of Japan', is a bicameral legislature consisting of a lower house, called the House of Representatives (465 members) and an upper house, the House of Councillors (245 members).

Charanjit Singh Channi becomes the 16th Chief Minister of Punjab

The Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Congress party Charanjit Singh Channi took the oath as the **16th** Chief Minister (CM) of Punjab.



He has **succeeded** the previous CM **Captain Amarinder Singh**.

i. Sukhjinder Randhawa and Om Parkash Soni will serve as the two Deputy Chief Ministers (Dy. CM) of Punjab.

ii. Amarinder Singh has submitted his resignation to the Governor of State, Banwarilal Purohit.

About Charanjit Singh Channi

i. Charanjit was born on March 1, 1963 Chamkaur Sahib, Punjab.

ii. He has served as the Technical Education and Industrial Training Employment Generation Minister under the previous government of Captain Amarinder Singh. A three time MLA elected from Rupnagar's

Chamkaur Sahib.

iii. He was elected as the leader of Opposition (LoO) in the 14th Punjab Vidhan Sabha.

iv. He has become the **first** Dalit Chief Minister of Punjab.

Justin Trudeau Won a 3rd Term as Prime Minister of Canada

Canadian Prime Minister (PM) **Justin Trudeau**, leader of the Liberal party since **2013**, won **3rd** term as the PM of Canada by winning the 2021 Canadian federal election but failed to secure the absolute majority.

- The Liberal party won the election with 158 seats of the 170 needed for a majority in the House of Commons.
- The Conservative Party, the main opposition party in Canada has won 119 of the 338 seats.

Note:

17 Indian origin Canadians including New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jagmeet Singh and Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan have won the election.

About Justin Trudeau:

i. Justin Trudeau has been serving as the Prime minister of Canada since November 2015, he became the 2nd youngest PM in Canadian history after Joe Clark.

ii. As the son of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Justin Trudeau became the first to be the child or other relative of a previous PM to hold the post.

iii. He was re-elected as the PM of Canada in 2019 and again in 2021.

Parliament of Canada:

i. The parliament of Canada, the federal legislature of Canada, located at Parliament Hill in Ottawa consists of 3 parts, the Monarch, the Senate, and the House of

Commons.

ii. The parliament consists of **443** seats which include **338** Members of Parliament (MP) elected by the people and **105** senators, appointed by the Governor-General to represent regions of the country.

V R Chaudhari appointed as the next Chief of Air Staff

The Air Marshal, **Vivek Ram (VR)**

Chaudhari has been appointed as the Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF). He will **succeed** the



current Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh **Bhadoria (RKS Bhadoria)**, who will retire on September 30, 2021.

About Vivek Ram (VR) Chaudhari

i. Currently, he is serving as the **Vice Chief of Air Staff** after the retirement of Air Marshal H S Arora. He has also served as Chief of the Western Air Command (WAC).

- The WAC is the largest **air command of the IAF** responsible for parts of both the borders with **Pakistan and China**. Now protecting **Ladakh** as well.
- ii. He is an expert in major MiG-29 fighter aircraft and has experience of flying for more than 3800 hours on fighter and trainer aircraft, including missions flown during **Operation Meghdoot**, the Air Force's support to capture the Siachen glacier in the 1980s, and **Operation Safed Sagar** (the support provided by the IAF during the Kargil conflict in 1999).

- He has served in several positions like Deputy Commandant, Air Force Academy,

Assistant Chief of Air Staff Operations (Air Defence) and Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Personnel Officers).

iv. Awards: V R Chaudhari is a recipient of the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal,** and the **Vayu Sena Medals.**

Honours/ Awards

Bangladeshi Vaccine Scientist Firdausi Qadri and 4 Others Awarded for Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021

Bangladeshi scientist **Firdausi Qadri**, who developed a cheap oral vaccine against cholera won the **Ramon Magsaysay award 2021** which is also called **Asia's Nobel Prize**. Along with her, the other recipients received the award for the year 2021. **2021 other awardees are:**



- **Muhammad Amjad Saqib (Pakistan)** – for helping people through social entrepreneurship.
- **Steven Muncy (Southeast Asia)** – for extending humanitarian and peace-building efforts across borders.
- **Filipino fisher and community environmentalist Roberto Ballon** from Philippines.
- **Watchdoc Indonesia (Indonesia)** – for emergent leadership and for using

journalism and filmmaking to give voice to the people.

About Firdausi Qadri

i. Dr. Qadri is 70 years old senior scientist and working on projects for creating affordable vaccines to combat cholera and typhoid at the Mucosal Immunology and Vaccinology Unit at the **International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research in Dhaka, Bangladesh.**

ii. She is also working to enhance efforts of **mass vaccination in Rohingya refugee camps.**

About Muhammad Amjad Saqib

Saqib is 64 years old, Pakistani activist who has developed the first interest free Microfinance Program- **Akhuwat.** It uses a place of worship to provide zero-interest loans.

Ramon Magsaysay Award

Ramon Magsaysay Award is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay of his integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society.

Established – April 1957

Location – Manila, Philippines

Delhi Airport Won CII ‘National Energy Leader’ and ‘Excellent Energy Efficient Unit’ 2021

Indira Gandhi International Airport also known as Delhi International

Airport Limited (DIAL) led by GMR

Group won 2 Confederation of Indian Industry

(CII) **National Energy Leader 2021** and **Excellent Energy Efficient Unit 2021** at the 22nd National Award Ceremony for ‘Excellence in Energy Management’ organised by CII Green Business Centre (GBC).



- DIAL has won the National Energy Leader award for the 2nd year and the Excellent Energy Efficient Unit award for the 4th year in a row.

- The awards recognise the energy efficiency initiatives adopted by the company in its daily operations.

Additional Info:

Rajiv Gandhi International Airport also known as GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) has clinched the prestigious awards of CII “National Energy Leader” and “Excellent Energy Efficient Unit” for the 3rd and 5th years in a row.

Modi, Mamata and SII CEO named among 100 most influential people by TIME

‘The 100 Most Influential People of 2021’, an annual list of global leaders was released by TIME magazine recently. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** and Serum Institute of India (SII)

CEO **Adar Poonawalla** were named among the world’s 100 most influential people of 2021.

i. Global leaders like US President Joe Biden, US Vice President Kamala Harris, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi, Israel’s Naftali Bennett, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi were listed.

ii. Even Former US President Donald Trump and the Taliban government’s deputy PM Abdul Ghani Baradar of Afghanistan.

iii. The list also includes tennis player Naomi Osaka, Russian opposition activist Alexei Navalny, music icon Britney Spears, executive director of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council Manjusha P. Kulkarni, Apple CEO Tim Cook, actor Kate Winslet and the first African and first woman to lead the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

About TIME Magazine

TIME is an American News magazine and news website Based in New York

Editor: Edward Felsenthal

Euromoney Named DBS as ‘World’s Best Bank’ & ‘World’s Best Digital Bank’ for 2021

Euromoney, a UK-based financial publication, announced its **Global Awards for Excellence 2021** recently, and named **DBS**, the



Singapore based financial services group as **‘World’s Best Bank 2021’** for the 2nd time in 3 years.

Euromoney has also named DBS the **‘World’s Best Digital Bank 2021’**.

- DBS becomes the first bank in the world to hold both titles concurrently.
- DBS was awarded for demonstrating its rare skills in surviving the COVID-19 pandemic and for utilising the chance to innovate and become a better bank.

Note:

This is the 4th consecutive year for DBS to be named the World’s Best Bank.

DBS has been named the World’s Best Bank by Euromoney in 2021 & 2019 and by Global Finance in 2020 and 2018.

About Euromoney’s Awards for Excellence:

Euromoney’s Awards for Excellence established in 1992 was the first of its kind in the global banking industry.

Key Points:

- It approved more than 12,000 collateral-free loans totalling over SGD 6.2 billion, and SGD 11 billion in loan moratoriums for micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) customers.
- DBS also launched several ground-breaking initiatives with emerging technologies like blockchain and artificial intelligence, which includes, DBS Digital Exchange, Climate Impact X, Partior, and DBS NAV Planner.

India to Have World’s longest Expressway by March 2023

Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways announced that India is set to have the world’s longest expressway – **Delhi-Mumbai Express Highway** by March 2023. The 1,380 km long Expressway, developed at a cost of Rs.98000 Crore will reduce the travel time between Delhi and Mumbai to 12 to 13 hours.

- The first phase from Delhi-Jaipur (Dausa)-Lalsot and Vadodara-Ankleshwar is expected to be open to traffic by March

2022. The expressway is expected to be completed by March 2023.

- This will be India’s first expressway to have helipads and fully equipped trauma centres at every 100 km.

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina bags SDG Progress Award

Bangladesh **Prime**

Minister Sheikh

Hasina has been conferred with **‘SDG Progress Award’**, for Bangladesh’s steady progress in achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs), by the UN sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) at the 9th Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development held in New York in September 2021.



Sustainable Development Goals

To end poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for all.

About UN SDSN

Launched in 2012

President – Jeffrey Sachs

Headquarters: New York, United States

Objective: To mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development and implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Geeta Samota Became Fastest Indian to do Dual Summit

Central Industrial Security Force



(CISF) official **Geeta Samota** became the '**Fastest Indian** to do Dual Summit' after she completed the summit of two peaks of **Mt Elbrus** (5,642 mts) in **Russia** and **Kilimanjaro** peak (5,895 mts) in **Tanzania** (Africa).

- Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania Binaya Pradhan has mentioned the title earned by Geeta Samota. Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest peak.
- Geeta Samota works with CISF, a central paramilitary force under the command of the Union home ministry.

Assam's Binoy Kumar Saikia won Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology

2021 Binoy Kumar Saikia, a senior scientist at CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology (CSIR-NEIST), Jorhat, Assam, has won the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (SSB) for Science and Technology 2021** for his pioneering research in the field of coal and energy. He won the award given by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under **Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences** category.

- The names of the 11 recipients of the awards were announced on 26th September, the 80th foundation day of CSIR.

Dr Jeemon Panniyammakal of AMCHSS won SSB prize 2021 under Medical Sciences:

Dr Jeemon Panniyammakal, Associate professor of Epidemiology, The Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies (AMCHSS), Kerala won the SSB Prize for Science and Technology 2021 for his

research in the prevention of cardiovascular diseases in India.

He won the award under the Medical Science category.

- The SSB prizes are presented under 7 categories each carrying a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh.

Pratham CEO Dr Rukmini Banerji & Stanford Prof Eric A. Hanushek won 2021 Yidan Prize Dr Rukmini Banerji, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pratham Education Foundation, India and Eric A.

Hanushek, professor at Stanford University,

has been awarded the **2021 Yidan Prize**, the world's highest education accolade, recognising their work on improving the quality of education and outcomes for learners at scale.



- Dr Rukmini Banerji has been honoured with the **2021 Yidan Prize for Education Development** for her work in improving children's learning outcomes.
- Professor Eric A. Hanushek has been honoured with the **2021 Yidan Prize for Education Research** for his works **focused on** education outcomes and the importance of teaching quality and has transformed both research and policy internationally.

About Yidan Prize:

i. The Yidan Prize was founded in 2016 by Dr Charles Chen Yidan in the belief that education promotes well-being.

ii. The prize recognizes the individuals or a team (not

more than 3 members), contributing to education in 2 categories,

- Yidan Prize for Education Research
- Yidan Prize for Education Development

iii. Each prize carries a cash prize of **30 million HKD** (Hong Kong Dollar) (around Rs 28 crore).

Sports

South African Cricketer Dale Steyn Retires from All forms of Cricket

South African Cricketer & Right-arm fast bowler, **Dale Willem**

Steyn has announced his retirement from **all forms of Cricket** (ODIs, T20Is) at the age of 38. He had retired from Test cricket in 2019.



- The Right arm bowler has played 93 Tests, picking 439 wickets at an average of 22.95. Steyn ranks **8th** in the all-time list of Wicket-takers in Test cricket.
- In One Day Internationals (**ODIs**), he has played 125 ODIs, picking 196 wickets & **47** Twenty20 Internationals (**T20Is**) by taking 64 wickets.
- Steyn has played for Royal Challengers Bangalore (**RCB**), SunRisers Hyderabad (**SRH**) & Gujarat Lions in the Indian Premier League (**IPL**)

Awards

- He was named one of the Wisden Cricketers of the year in 2013 & Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World for 2013.
- He was featured in **Wisden Cricketers of the Decade in 2019**.

Princepal Singh Becomes 1st Indian to be a Part of NBA Championship Roster

Princepal Singh Bajwa from Punjab became the **first Indian** to be part of an **NBA title winning team** (at any level of the NBA) when his team Sacramento Kings won the 2021 NBA Summer League in Las Vegas in United States against the Boston Celtics.

- He signed a professional contract with NBA G League Ignite and became the 1st NBA Academy global alumni to sign a G League Contract and 1st ever NBA Academy India alumni to sign a professional contract.
- The win made the Sacramento Kings the only franchise to win multiple summer league titles.

Overview of 2020 Tokyo Paralympics

The Indian contingent has won a total of **19 medals** with **5 Golds, 8 Silvers and 6 Bronze medals** in the 16th edition of Summer Paralympic games that was held between 24th August and 5th September 2021 in Tokyo, Japan. The 19 medal count is higher than the total number of paralympics medals won by India in all the events since its 1st appearance in the **1968** Paralympic games.

- India has won a total of **12 medals from 1972 to 2016** in Paralympic games, where it had a highest total medal count of 4, both in 2016 and 1984.
- A total of 17 athletes have won 19 medals, with 2 athletes – **Avani Lekhara & Singhraj Adhana have won 2 medals each**
- India was ranked **24th** in the overall medal tally with 19 medals, while the top 3 positions in the medal tally were occupied by **China, Great Britain & USA**.

Highlights:

- Shooter Avani Lekhara becomes first Indian woman to win gold at Paralympics.
- Pramod Bhagat won the Gold medal in the men's singles SL3 class. This is India's first medal in badminton at the Paralympics Games.
- Suhas Yathiraj – 1st ever IAS Officer to win

Paralympic Medal.

iv. Bhavinaben Patel creates history, Becomes 1st

Indian para-paddler to win silver medal.

v. India's 1st Medal in Archery – won by Harvinder Singh.

About Paralympics:

- The 1st ever Paralympic games were held in **1960 at Rome, Italy**
- Paralympic Symbol consists of **3 'Agitos'** (meaning – 'I Move')
- Motto of 2020 Tokyo Paralympics – **"United by Emotion"**

Guinness World Records Honoured Cristiano Ronaldo as Highest Scoring Man in International Football

Guinness World Records has honoured Portugal football player Cristiano Ronaldo for becoming the highest-scoring man in International football history with his 111th goal for Portugal against Ireland in a World Cup qualifier. This marked his 180th game representing Portugal.



- He has surpassed the record held by Iranian footballer Ali Daei who has scored 109 goals in 149 games for Iran between 1993 and 2006.
- Cristiano Ronaldo achieved the feat of scoring goals for Portugal between 2003 and 2021 over a period of 18 years.

Note:

Ronaldo and Daei are the only men to score more than 100 goals for their countries.

About Cristiano Ronaldo:

- Cristiano Ronaldo, the captain of the Portugal National football team, has represented the Premier League club Manchester United and Real Madrid.
- He became the first player to score in five different editions of the continental tournament, taking his haul

to 11 to overtake Michel Platini's record of nine goals at Euros.

iii. With 137 goals he became the top scorer in the history of the champions league.

Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics Unveils Official Motto: Together for a Shared Future

The organisers of the **Beijing 2022** announced the official **motto** of Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games 2022, **"Together for a Shared Future"** over a ceremony at the Capital Museum, Beijing.



- The motto highlights unity and a collective effort, embodying the core values and vision of the Olympic Movement and the aim of pursuing world unity, peace and progress as well as the vision of the Paralympic Games.

Key People:

- Cai Qi, the President of Beijing 2022, Beijing Mayor Chen Jining and Governor of Hebei province Xu Qin participated in the event.
- Yang Yang and Long Yun, the athlete representatives were also present during the event.

Note:

Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics are scheduled to take place from February 4 to 20, 2022, and the Winter Paralympics are scheduled to take place from March 4 to 13, 2022.

Beijing 2022 Mascot:

Mascots of Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic were designed by Cao Xue.

- 2022 Beijing Winter **Olympic Games Mascot- Bing Dwen Dwen** (a Panda)

- 2022 Beijing Winter **Paralympic Games** Mascot- **Shuey Rhon Rhon** (a Chinese Lantern)

Overview of 2021 US Open Tennis

Championship The 141st edition of the US Open Tennis Championship was held in USA's New York City, which is also the 4th & last Grand Slam title of 2021 being conducted in a 'Hard Court' between 30th August and 12th September 2021. The finals of the tournament was held at Arthur Ashe Stadium, New York, USA.

Daniil Medvedev wins Maiden Grand Slam defeating Novak Djokovic

Russia's **Daniil Medvedev**, the current World No.2 ranked tennis player, defeated Serbia's Novak Djokovic in the finals of Men's Singles in the US Open 2021 winning 3 straight sets with 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Emma Raducanu – Youngest Female since Maria Sharapova to Win a Grand Slam

18-year old **Emma Raducanu** from Britain defeated Canada's Leylah Fernandez to win the Women's Singles Title in the 2021 US Opens tournament. She became the youngest female to win a Grand Slam Title since Maria Sharapova's 2004 Wimbledon victory.

About International Tennis Federation (ITF):

President – David Haggerty

Headquarters – London, United Kingdom

Magnus Carlsen won 9th EY Norway Chess 2021;

India's Gukesh won Norway Open 2021

Masters Magnus Carlsen, Norwegian chess

Grandmaster won the

9th edition of EY

Norway Chess

2021 against Russian

Grandmaster **Ian**

Alexandrovich Nepomniachtchi. This marks Magnus

Carlsen's 3rd consecutive title in Norway chess and



4th overall title.

Norway Chess 2021, a 6-player double round-robin tournament was held from 7th to 17th September 2021 in Stavanger, Norway.

- Grandmaster **Alireza Firouzja** (Iranian-French Chess Player) finished 2nd by defeating Hungarian grandmaster Richárd Rapport.
- Richárd Rapport finished 3rd in the Norway Chess 2021.

About Norway Chess:

i. Norway chess started in 2012 is one of the world's most prestigious chess tournaments annually hosting a tournament with the global top players.

ii. This is an annual super tournament for the highest-ranked chess players in the world.

FIDE ranking:

i. **Magnus Carlsen** tops the September ranking of FIDE (International Chess Federation) followed by Fabiano Caruana of the USA (2nd) Liren Ding of China (3rd). Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand is ranked 17th.

ii. Among women players, China's Yifan Hou tops the list followed by Aleksandra Goryachkina of Russia (2nd) and Humpy Koneru of India (3rd).

India's Gukesh D won Norway Open 2021 Masters:

Indian Grandmaster **Gukesh D** won the Norway Chess open 2021 under the masters' section and won 60000 (Norwegian Krone) NOK (around Rs 509000).

- This marks his 2nd consecutive win in a month.
- Gukesh's ranks 18th in FIDE's Juniors September ranking.

Indian Grandmaster **Ian P** secured the second position with 7½/10 points, finishing a half-point

ahead of Dmitrij Kollars (Germany) and Valentin Dragnev (Austria).

- Iniyani P has won 40000 NOK(around Rs 339000).

Pankaj Advani won IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup 2021 in Doha; his 24th World Title

Indian snooker player **Pankaj Advani** won his **24th world title** by

winning the International Billiards and Snooker



Federation (**IBSF**) **6-Red Snooker World**

Cup 2021 by defeating Pakistan player and 2017

World Team Snooker Champion **Babar Masih**.

- The IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup 2021 was organised by IBSF in association with Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation held from 17th to 21st September 2021 in Doha, Qatar.
- The total prize money of 6-Red Snooker World Cup 2021 is 38000 USD which includes the winner's prize of 12000 USD.

L Hamilton become first F1 driver in history to seal 100 wins

Lewis Hamilton sets a new record by registering his 100th win after finishing first in **Russian Grand Prix** held at Sochi Autodrom in Russia on September 28. Hamilton is a British racer, competes for Mercedes.

- With this win, Hamilton became the first Formula-one driver in the history to reach 100 wins. Max Verstappen finished second at **Russian Grand Prix 2021**.

F1 drivers with most wins in history

- i. Lewis Hamilton (Britain) 100
- ii. Michael Schumacher (Germany) 91
- iii. Sebastian Vettel (Germany) 53
- iv. Alain Prost (France) 51
- v. Ayrton Senna (Brazil) 41

India leads in Test Series against England

India lead in the 5-match Test Series against England by winning 2 of the 4-matches played and drawing the 1st match, that was held between 4th August and 6th September 2021, in England. The Fifth match of the series was cancelled due to COVID-19 outbreak among 4 of the Indian crew members.

Virat Kohli – Fastest Cricketer to reach 23,000 International runs

During the Test series, Virat Kohli broke the long-standing record of Sachin Tendulkar to become the fastest to score 23,000 international runs in Cricket.

Jasprit Bumrah becomes Fastest Indian to take 100 Test wickets

During the 4th Test, Indian fast bowler, Jasprit Bumrah became the fastest Indian bowler to take 100 test wickets. He achieved this in just 24 games, surpassing Kapil Dev, who reached the mark in 25 Test matches.

About International Cricket Council (ICC):

Chairman – Greg Barclay (New Zealand)

Headquarters – Dubai, UAE

Sri Lankan Pacer Lashith Malinga retires from all formats of cricket

Sri Lankan fast bowler Lasith Malinga announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He retired from Test cricket in 2011 and ODI in 2019.



Contribution to Sri Lanka

Malinga played 30 Tests, 226 ODIs and 84 T20Is. He picked 546 wickets (101 in Tests, 338 in ODIs and 107 in T20Is) across formats.

Achievements

- i. He led Sri Lanka T20 team to victory in the 2014 World Cup.
- ii. He is the only bowler to take 4 wickets in 4 balls in a row on two occasions in international cricket and to take 3 ODI hat-tricks and two in T20I cricket.
- iii. First bowler to take 100 and 150 wickets in the history of Indian Premier League.

Additional information

- i. He represented Mumbai Indian since 2008 in Indian Premier League (IPL)

Obituaries

Chandan Mitra Former Rajya Sabha MP & Senior Journalist Passed Away

Chandan Mitra (65), former Rajya Sabha MP and a senior journalist have passed away in Delhi. He has served as the Editor and Managing Director of the Pioneer newspaper, Delhi.



About Chandan Mitra:

- i. Chandan Mitra, a senior journalist, who has served in the Statesman (Kolkata), The Pioneer Newspaper, The Times of India, Sunday Observer and Hindustan Times.
- ii. He was first nominated as a member of the Rajya Sabha in August 2003 and served till 2009.
- iii. He got his 2nd term in Rajya Sabha in 2010 when he was elected as a BJP Member from Madhya Pradesh.
- iv. He has been a part of the Bharatiya Janata party till 2018 and later joined the All India Trinamool Congress.

Former IOC President Jacques Rogge Passed Away

Former International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Jacques Rogge Passed away at the age of 79 in Deinze, Belgium. He was born in Ghent, Belgium. He served as the President of IOC for 12 Years.

- He represented Belgium in rugby and was a world champion in sailing.
- He participated in the Finn class at three Olympic Games from 1968 through 1976.
- He earlier served as the President of the Belgian and European Olympic Committees.

Former Union Minister Oscar Fernandes Passed Away in Karnataka

Former Union Minister and Congress leader Oscar Fernandes passed away in Mangaluru, Karnataka. He was 80 year old.



About Oscar Fernandes

i. He was born in March 27, 1941 Udupi district of Karnataka.

ii. Fernandes was also a trained performer of **Yakshagana**, the traditional art form of coastal Karnataka.

iii. **Political Career-** He has served as the Union Cabinet Minister for Transport, Road and Highways during the time of 2013-14. He was elected as the Member of Parliament (MP) in Lok Sabha from Udupi constituency during 1980-1996 and MP of Rajya Sabha during 1998-2021 from Karnataka constituency.

iv. During the same time, he was provided additional charge of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

v. He has also served as the Chairman of the Central Election Authority of the All India Congress Committee (AICC).

Important Days with theme

National Teachers Day 2021 – September 5

National Teachers day is annually observed across India on 5th September to commemorate the birth anniversary of the respected teacher and prolific statesman Bharat Ratna awardee **Dr Sarvapalli**



Radhakrishnan, the first Vice president of India and the 2nd President of India. He was born on 5th September 1888 in Tiruttani, Madras Presidency (Now Tamil Nadu).

President Ram Nath Kovind awarded National Teachers' Award 2021:

On the occasion of National Teachers Day 2021, Ram Nath Kovind, President of India, presented the National Teachers Awards 2021 to the 44 teachers who were selected from all over India.

International Literacy Day 2021 – September 8

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s International Literacy

Day (ILD) is annually observed across the globe on **8th**

September to

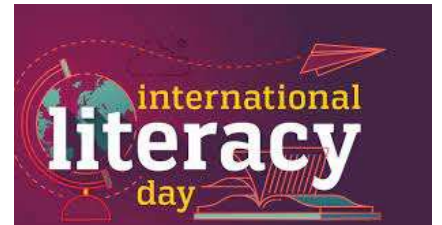
highlight the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights.

The day also aims to advance the literacy agenda towards a more literate and sustainable society.

The theme of UNESCO's ILD 2021 is "**Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide**".

Background:

i. In 1966, UNESCO proclaimed the 8th September of every year as International Literacy Day to highlight the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies.



ii. The first-ever International Literacy Day was observed on 8th September 1967.

National Hindi Diwas 2021 – September 14

National Hindi Diwas is annually observed across India on September 14th to commemorate the adoption of Hindi in the Devanagari Script as one of the official languages of India.



The day aims to promote the progressive use of Hindi and for the

enrichment and promotion of the Hindi Language.

Background:

i. The government of India led by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru declared the **14th September** of every year as the Hindi Diwas to highlight the significance of the day on which Hindi became one of the official languages of India along with English.

ii. The day also marks the **birth anniversary** of the acclaimed Hindi Stalwart, **Beohar Rajendra Simha**, the illustrator of the original final manuscript of the Constitution of India

International Day of Democracy 2021 – September 15

The United Nations (UN)'s **International Day of Democracy** is annually observed across the globe on **September 15th** to provide an opportunity to review the state of democracy across the globe. The day also promotes democratic principles, values of freedom, and respect for human rights.

Background:

i. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/62/7 on 8th November 2007 and proclaimed the 15th September of every year as the International Day of Democracy.

ii. The first-ever International Day of Democracy was observed on **15th September 2008**.

Why September 15?

The day marks the adoption of the **Universal**

Declaration on Democratic by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on **15th September 1997**.

National Engineers Day 2021 – September 15

National Engineers Day is annually observed across India on **September 15th** to mark the birth anniversary of eminent Engineer, Bharat Ratna **Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya**.

The day commemorates the achievements of engineers and encourages them for improvement and innovation. Sri Lanka and Tanzania also celebrates Engineers day to honour Sir M Visvesvaraya's innovations.

- The 15th September 2021 marks the observance of the **54th National Engineers Day**.
- The National Engineers day 2021 marks the **160th** birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya who was born on 15th September 1861 in Muddenahalli village, Karnataka.

Background:

i. The government of India declared the birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya as National Engineers day.

ii. The first-ever National Engineers Day was observed on 15th September 1968.

International Day of Peace 2021 – September 21

The United Nations (UN)'s **International Day of Peace** is annually observed across the globe on **September 21st** to strengthen the idea of peace both within and among all nations and people by observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. The theme of the International Day of Peace 2021 is "**Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world**".

- The 2021 theme focuses on the efforts of the UN on recovering better for a more equitable and peaceful world.

Background:

- i. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/36/67 in 1981 and declared that the 3rd Tuesday of September, the opening day of the regular session of the UNGA as the International Day of Peace.
- ii. The first ever International Day of Peace was observed on 14th September 1982.
- iii. In September 2001, the UNGA adopted the resolution A/RES/55/282 and proclaimed the 21st September of every year as the International Day of Peace and the resolution also declared the International Day of Peace (September 21) as a period of non-violence and cease fire.

World Tourism Day – 27 September

The United Nations (UN)'s **World Tourism Day (WTD)** is annually observed across the globe on **27th September** to create awareness about the importance of tourism and its impact on social, economic and political aspects of a region. The day also highlights the contributions of the tourism sector towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**WTD 2021:**

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has designated World Tourism Day 2021 as a day to focus on “**Tourism for Inclusive Growth**” as the COVID-19 pandemic has had a massive social and economic impact on both developed and developing countries.

- i. The **first** World Tourism Day was observed on **27th September 1980**.

Why September 27?

September 27th was chosen to commemorate the adoption of UNWTO statutes on 27th September 1970.