

## Awards and Honours

Recipient Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Dinyar Patel	NIF Book Prize 2021	A biography titled 'Naoraji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism', authored by Dinyar Patel and published by Harvard University Press selected as the winner of the 4th Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF (New India Foundation) Book Prize 2021.
V Praveen Rao	7th Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for 2017-19	Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, V Praveen Rao wins the 7th Dr M S Swaminathan Award for the period 2017-19.
Ratan Tata	Assam's highest civilian award - 'Asom Bhaibav'	The awards that precede it are Asom Saurav, followed by Asom Gaurav. With healthcare as one of its top priorities, the Assam government is showing its appreciation towards Tata's push to cancer care in the region.
Nizamuddin Basti project	UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2021	The project involves the meticulous restoration of over 20 historic monuments clustered around the 14th-century mausoleum of the revered Sufi saint, Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya.
Nikhil Srivastava	AMS's Ciprian Foias Award	Indian-American mathematician, Nikhil Srivastava, who teaches at the University of California, Berkeley along with Adam Marcus and Daniel Spielman were awarded the First Ciprian Foias Prize in Operator Theory by the American Mathematical Society (AMS).
Nilmani Phookan Jr and Damodar Mauzo	Jnanpith Award	Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan Jr won the 56th Jnanpith Award and Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo won the 57th Jnanpith Award.
Balkrishna Doshi	2022 RIBA Royal Gold Medal for Architecture	The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has announced that Indian architect Balkrishna Doshi will be the

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		recipient of the 2022 Royal Gold Medal.
Harnaaz Sandhu	Miss Universe 2021 crown	This is a proud moment for the country because the 21-year-old Chandigarh-based model brought home the coveted crown after 21 years.
Karnataka Bank	2 DigiDhan Awards by MeitY	The award recognized banks for achieving the target with the highest percentage in BHIM-UPI transactions under the private sector bank category consecutively for two years 2019-20 and 2020-21.
Neena Gupta	Ramanujan Prize 2021	Indian Mathematician Neena Gupta has received the 2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.
Azim Premji	Dr. Ida S. Scudder Oration award	Azim Premji, founder chairman of Wipro Limited and founder of Azim Premji Foundation is this year's recipient of the 10th annual Dr Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration.
DBS Bank India	ET BFSI Excellence Awards 2021	An initiative of The Economic Times, ET BFSI Excellence Awards honours the best innovations & practices implemented by the BFSI industry in a dynamic and competitive environment.
PM Modi	Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo	Bhutan has honoured PM Modi with its highest civilian award, Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo. Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering has announced PM Modi's name for Bhutan's highest honour.
Sunil Gavaskar	SJFI Medal 2021	SJFI Medal is the highest honour of SJFI. SJFI was founded on 27th February 1976 at the Eden Gardens, Calcutta (now Kolkata), West Bengal.
Simone Biles	Time Magazine's 2021 Athlete of the Year	Simone Biles was named Time magazine's 2021 Athlete of the Year. The world's most decorated gymnast, a four-time Olympic medalist, was hailed

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		for putting her mental health first when she withdrew from four event finals at the Tokyo Olympics.
Kumar Mangalam Birla	Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award	Aditya Birla Group's chairman, Kumar Mangalam Birla has received the Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award- Business Transformation from The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) based out of Silicon Valley.
Emma Raducanu	BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2021	Tennis star Emma Raducanu is the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year for 2021. She beat Tom Daley(diver) and Adam Peaty (swimmer) into second and third place.
SAIL	Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2021	Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), under the Ministry of Steel, has been awarded with the prestigious Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2021 for successive three years.
Divya Hegde	UN Women's Award for Leadership Commitment 2021	She has been recognized for her sustained efforts in advancing gender equality through climate action efforts with her organization, Baeru Environmental Services.
Anil Prakash Joshi	Mother Teresa Memorial Award	Environmentalist Dr Anil Prakash Joshi, who was conferred upon the Padma Bhushan this year, has been awarded the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2021.
Anukruti Upadhyay's Kintsugi	Sushila Devi Award 2021	Anukruti Upadhyay has won the Sushila Devi Award 2021 for the Best Book of Fiction for her novel, Kintsugi, which was published by the Fourth Estate imprint.
Viral Sudhirbhai Desai,	Global Environment And Climate Action Citizen Award 2021	Among the 28 personalities from 11 countries (which includes the United Kingdom(UK), the United States(US), New Zealand, France, and Malaysia,) who were honoured with this award, Viral Desai was the only Indian to win the honour for climate change.

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HDFC Bank	CII Dx award for 'Most Innovative Best Practice' 2021	HDFC Bank has been named under 'Most Innovative Best Practice' at the coveted Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Digital Transformation Award 2021 or CII DX Award 2021.
Alia Bhatt	India's 2021 Person of the Year	People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India has named Bollywood star Alia Bhatt its 2021 Person of the Year. She is an animal lover and often shares pictures with her pets.
Kerala Veterinary and Animal Science University (KVASU)	National award for breed conservation	The centre received the prestigious award from ICAR – The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) for the conservation and research activities on the Tellicherry breed, the only registered native chicken breed from the State.
Danish Siddiqui	'Journalist of the Year'	The Redink Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2021 were presented on December 29, 2021, by Mumbai Press Club with the Chief Justice of India NV Ramana as a Chief Guest at the virtual event.

## Appointments

Name	Designation	Extra Information
Lt Gen Manoj Kuma Mago	Head National Defence College	He hails from Ludhiana, was commanding the 10 Corps at Bathinda before being given the assignment at NDC that entails evolving a strategic culture among the country's senior-most officials of the military, the civilian bureaucracy and the Indian Police Service.
Sanjeev Kaushal	Chief Secretary of Haryana	Sanjeev Kaushal has replaced Vijai Vardhan who retired on September 30, 2021. Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal was the senior-most officer after Vijai Vardhan and had been a frontrunner for the position.
Sanjay Dutt	Brand Ambassador for 50th year Celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh	Sanjay Dutt launched a media campaign for the month-long celebrations, from 20th January to 20th February 2022 at the Mechuka valley of AP's Shi-Yomi district.
Smriti Mandhana	Brand Ambassador of GUVI	Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) incubated startup, GUVI has signed Indian Women's cricketer Smriti Mandhana as its brand ambassador.
Pradip Shah	Chairman of National Asset Reconstruction Company	Shah, an MBA from Harvard and chartered accountant, is credited for establishing India's first and largest housing finance company, HDFC, and rating firm Crisil.
Alka Upadhyaya	Chairperson of NHAI	A 1990-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, Upadhyaya is currently Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development.
Rajnish Kumar	Group advisor of OYO	He is currently a part of the boards of HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T infotech, Hero Motocorp and BharatPe.
Jasprit Bumrah	Brand Ambassador – UNIX	The products include wearable mobile electronics such as Chargers, Earphones, Data Cables, Power Banks, Wireless Speakers, Smartphone

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		Batteries, Bluetooth neckbands and TWS are mostly manufactured and marketed across India through distributors.
Adama Barrow	Gambia's President	He defeated his main challenger Ousainou Darboe who won 27.7% of vote. The results of the election were declared by Electoral commission Chairman Alieu Momarr Njai.
Ravindra Jadeja	Brand Ambassador of Kinara Capital	Till date, Kinara Capital has disbursed 70,000 collateral-free loans. With this partnership, Kinara aims to boost its outreach in financing the MSME sector in the country.
Sanjiv Mehta	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) – President	Mehta, presently the Senior Vice President of FICCI, will be succeeding media industry veteran Uday Shanka
Ittira Davis	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank - MD & CEO	Davis was the MD and CEO of Ujjivan Financial Services Limited from July 2018 from where he resigned in 2021.
Catherine Russell	UNICEF – Head	She also heads the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. From 2013-2017, she has also served as the State Department's ambassador-at-large, for global women's issues.
Arvind Kumar	Software Technology Parks of India as DG	Arvind Kumar has joined as Director General of Software Technology Parks of India. Software Technology Parks of India is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology Government of India.
Naravane	Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee	Army Chief General M.M. Naravane has assumed the charge as the chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee that comprises the three service chiefs. The post fell vacant following the death of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat in the Indian Air Force helicopter crash on December 8.

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Mohit Jain	President Of Indian Newspaper Society	The 82nd Annual General Meeting of the Indian Newspaper Society – an apex body of Publishers of Newspapers, Magazines & Periodicals in the country, was held through Video Conference.
KL Rahul	vice-captain for India's test series against South Africa	KL Rahul was named as the vice-captain for India's upcoming 3-match Test series against South Africa by the all-India Senior Selection Committee on December 18, 2021.
Rishabh Pant	Uttarakhand's brand ambassador	The 24-year Pant, who was rested for the New Zealand Tests, is currently in South Africa as the Indian Team is all set to face Proteas in the three-match Test series, starting December 26.
Pradeep Kumar Rawat	Indian ambassador to China	Diplomat Pradeep Kumar Rawat has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to China. Rawat (Indian Foreign Services, 1990) is presently the Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and is expected to take up his new assignment shortly.
Rajeev Ahuja	RBL Bank – MD	The RBL Bank board has appointed Rajeev Ahuja, who's currently working as the Executive Director at the bank, as interim Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of the bank with immediate effect, subject to the regulatory and other approvals.
Kamlesh Gandhi	Co-Chairman of FIDC	Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) has announced fresh appointments to its board of directors.
Eishin Chihana	Chairman of Yamaha Motor India Group	Chihana has been associated with Yamaha Motor Company and its group companies across the globe since 1991.
Atul Kumar Goel	MD & CEO of PNB	The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Atul Kumar Goel, MD & CEO of UCO Bank, as MD & CEO

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		of Punjab National Bank (PNB) with effect from February 1 next year.
Anupam Ray	India's new ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament	Senior diplomat Anupam Ray has been appointed as India's next permanent representative to the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.
Vasudevan PN	MD & CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank	Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan has been reappointed as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited (ESFBL) for three years (from July 23, 2022, to July 22, 2025), by the Board of Directors (BoD).
Vikram Misri	Deputy National Security Advisor	Diplomat Vikram Misri has been appointed as deputy national security adviser in the national security council secretariat. The appointment of Misri, a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, came after he served as the Indian ambassador to China for nearly three years.

## **Banking & Finance**

### **White-label ATMs : India1 Payments installed 10,000 white-label ATMs**

India1 Payments has crossed a milestone on deploying 10000 white-label ATMs, which was called as “India1ATMs”. India1 Payments is IPO-bound and is promoted by the Banktech Group of Australia.

It was formerly known as BTI Payments. India1 ATM has become the second-largest white label ATM brand on semi-urban and rural areas. With the deployment of 10000 ATMs, India1 Payments has become the largest player in this segment.

### **SBI signs MoU with Usha International for Empowering Women**

State Bank of India (SBI) has signed an agreement with Usha International Limited (UIL) for empowering women entrepreneurs by providing financial assistance. The financial assistance will be provided under the Joint Liability Group model.

This is the first of its kind collaboration between UIL and SBI in coming forward together for the upliftment of the social and economic status of women entrepreneurs in rural areas of the country by making them self-reliant and providing equal opportunity for achieving financial growth and inclusion.

### **ADB approves \$500-million loan to improve quality of school education**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$500 million loan to the Government of India to help improve the quality of the country’s school education and mitigate the impact of the Covid-19) pandemic on students’ learning.

The loan supports the Integrated Scheme for School Education (Samagra Shiksha) and the new Exemplar School Initiative of the Ministry of Education (MOE) to improve education quality by focussing on inclusive and equitable learning outcomes.

### **Federal Bank launches an exclusive feature-rich scheme for women**

Private sector lender, Federal Bank has launched a feature-rich savings bank product for women.

The savings scheme is called Mahila Mitra Plus and provides a curated set of features, designed to make financial planning and investments easy for women.

### **IDFC FIRST Bank debuts India’s first standalone metal debit card**

IDFC FIRST Bank announced the launch of FIRST Private Infinite, the country’s first-ever standalone metal debit card, in partnership with Visa.

FIRST Private Infinite is a lifetime free card designed specifically for customers who are part of the Bank’s FIRST Private program, premium savings and wealth offering.

### **India- ADB agreements for projects in Uttarakhand and TN**

Central government has signed two loan agreements for Projects in the state of Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu.

The loan agreement of Rs 2,074 crore will be used for – affordable housing project in Tamil Nadu and water sanitation programme in Uttarakhand.

### **ADB to provide USD 350 million to improve access to urban services in India**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is set to provide USD 350 million loan for improving access to urban services across India. By accelerating policy actions and reforms of enhancing service delivery and By promoting performance-based central fiscal transfers to urban local bodies (ULBs).

ADB will also provide knowledge and advisory support to the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs for programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

### **Mastercard and Google Pay tie-up for tokenisation for card-based payments**

Mastercard and Google announced a tokenization method that enables Google Pay users to safely transact using their Mastercard credit cards and debit cards.

With this collaboration, Google Pay Android users can scan and pay across all Bharat QR-enabled merchants, tap-and-pay, and make in-app transactions through their Mastercard debit and credit card.

For a convenient registration, users will have to do a one-time setup by entering their card details and their OTP to add their card on the Google Pay app.

### **Bank of Baroda grabbed top spot in Digital Payments**

Bank of Baroda has announced it has won the #1 position in overall digital transactions amongst large banks for FY20-21.

The bank showed the exceptional growth of digital payment transactions achievement and was felicitated by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India at the Digital Payments Utsav.

### **Paytm Payments Bank tie-up with MoneyGram to enable international fund transfer**

Paytm Payments Bank has partnered with MoneyGram, a peer-to-peer remittance company to enable international fund transfer directly to Paytm Wallet.

Under the Partnership, MoneyGram users abroad can now transfer money to any full Know Your Customer (KYC)-compliant Paytm wallet.

MoneyGram transactions in India received digitally stands at nearly 50 per cent of all transactions received in the country. This is MoneyGram's first mobile wallet partnership in India.

### **IndusInd Bank launched 'green fixed deposits'**

IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of 'green fixed deposits', whereby the deposit proceeds will be used to finance projects and firms supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A green deposit is a fixed-term deposit for investors looking to invest their surplus cash reserves in environmentally friendly projects. These deposits will be offered to both retail & corporate customers.

### **Paytm Payments Bank receives scheduled bank status from RBI**

Paytm Payments Bank has been given the scheduled bank status by the Reserve Bank of India. The bank has been included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and the approval will help it to bring more financial services and products.

The bank supports 33.3 crore Paytm Wallets and enables consumers to make payments at over 87,000 online merchants and 2.11 crore in-store merchants.

### **SBI signed MoU with Kendriya Sainik Board**

State Bank of India (SBI) has signed an MoU with Kendriya Sainik Board to support and educate the children of war veterans, ex-servicemen, and war widows.

India's largest bank said it will provide a grant of ₹ 1,000 per month to 8,333 war veterans'. The bank has contributed ₹ 10 crores to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. The Armed Forces Flag Day is celebrated on December 7.

### **RBI allowed SFBs as Agency Bank to conduct Govt Business**

Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Department of Financial Services, the Ministry of Finance, has decided to make the Scheduled payments banks and scheduled small finance banks (SFBs) eligible to conduct Government agency business.

In May this year, RBI has revised the existing guidelines on 'Appointment of Scheduled Private Sector Banks as Agency Banks of RBI' for authorising Scheduled Private Sector Banks as agency banks of RBI for conducting govt business (Central and/or State).

### **Federal Bank and Star Health Insurance tie-up for bancassurance**

Federal Bank has entered into a Bancassurance partnership with Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd as a corporate agent to provide health insurance products for the Bank's 8.90 million customers across India.

The Bank's customers can avail benefits of Star Health's retail products and group affinity products through the bank's various distribution channels which help the customers to address their complete financial needs under one roof.

### **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance starts '#Care4Hockey' Campaign**

A leading private general insurer in India, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has started its '#Care4Hockey' Campaign to elevate field Hockey's recognition in India.

The company has partnered with Padma Shri (2020) Rani Rampal, Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain, who will be the face of the campaign. '#Care4Hockey' is a one of its kind campaign which aims to support the development of Hockey in India from the grass-root level.

### **Bank of Baroda launches bob World Wave**

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched a solution for digital banking payments, named bob World Wave. Wearable technology is witnessing the rise of tremendous interest across the world and lenders are using this opportunity to adopt the more convenient and cashless digital payments systems.

This is an innovative solution, intended to perfectly deliver preventive health actions as well as easier payment transactions.

### **IndusInd Bank and NPCI tie-up to offer cross-border payments through UPI**

IndusInd Bank has partnered with the National Payments Corporation to offer real-time cross-border remittances to India using UPI IDs, for its Money Transfer Operator (MTO) partners.

It is the first Indian bank to go live on UPI for cross-border payments/NRI remittances. Under this arrangement, the MTOs will be using the IndusInd Bank channel to connect with NPCI's UPI payment systems for validation and cross-border payment settlement into beneficiary accounts.

### **HDFC Life signed bancassurance partnership with South Indian Bank**

HDFC Life signed a bancassurance (Bank-Insurance) agreement with South Indian Bank to enable customers of the South Indian Bank to avail HDFC Life's life insurance products and services to the customers of South Indian Bank.

This bancassurance arrangement will enable customers of the South Indian Bank to avail HDFC Life's wide range of life insurance products which include solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement and critical illness.

This bancassurance partnership will further strengthen HDFC Life's business across India.

### **HDFC Bank tie-up with IPPB to offer banking services in rural areas**

HDFC Bank has signed an MoU with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to offer banking services to over 4.7 crore customers of IPPB in semi-urban and rural areas.

Under the MoU, out of 4.7 crores, customers around 90 per cent reside in rural areas. The HDFC bank aims to boost its financial inclusion drive by leveraging IPPB's network of 650 branches and over 136,000 banking access points.

### **Indipaisa tie-up with NSDL Payments Bank to launch a new Fintech platform**

Indipaisa has signed a partnership agreement with NSDL Payments Bank to launch Financial Technology (Fintech) solutions targeting India's 63 million Small & Mid-sized Enterprise (SME) sector.

To empower SME owners & operators to provide facilities and services that help them grow businesses, comply with government tax laws and build a sustainable future.

### Indian Affairs

#### India will have nine nuclear reactors by 2024

The nation will have nine nuclear reactors by 2024 and a new nuclear project, the first in northern India, will come up 150 kms away from Delhi in Gorakhpur of Haryana, the government informed the Rajya Sabha.

By 2024, India will have nine nuclear reactors plus 12 new additional ones which were approved during the Covid times with a capacity of 9000 MW.

#### NCW launches 'She is a Changemaker' programme

National Commission for Women (NCW) launched a pan-India capacity building programme called "She is a Changemaker" on December 7, 2021.

She is a Changemaker programme was launched for women in Politics. It is a capacity building programme, which will be undertaken in association with region-wise training institutes.

'She is a Changemaker' programme's main objective will be to improve the leadership and decision-making skills of grassroots women political leaders and their communication skills including oration and writing skills.

#### UNESCO recognises Kolkata's Durga Puja as Intangible Cultural Heritage

UNESCO has added Durga Puja in Kolkata to its 2021 list of Intangible Cultural Heritage, giving international recognition to the biggest religious festival of the 331-year-old city and the state of West Bengal.

The UNESCO's announcement was welcomed by Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) as chief minister Mamata Banerjee is widely recognized as the biggest patron of the festival.

Durga Puja is a major annual festival celebrated most notably in Kolkata, West Bengal, in September or October month. The ten-day festival is also celebrated in other parts of India as well among the Bengali diaspora.

#### IIT-Delhi tie-up with IAF to improve indigenisation efforts

IIT-Delhi signed an MoU with Indian Air Force (IAF) to support requirements towards indigenous solutions in various weapon systems.

Under the MoU, The IAF has identified key focus areas involving the development of technology and finding indigenous solutions towards the sustenance of various weapon systems.

The partnership between IIT Delhi and IAF will also boost the efforts by Base Repair Depots (BRDs) of Maintenance Command IAF.

#### India's first Green Hydrogen Microgrid Projects in Andhra

State-run NTPC Ltd has awarded India's first green hydrogen microgrid project in Andhra Pradesh. The project has been awarded at the Simhadri plant of NTPC Ltd. in Andhra Pradesh.

NTPC will involve in "Standalone Fuel-cell based Microgrid along with hydrogen production using electrolyzer" project at NTPC Simhadri.

### **Government grants 'In-Principle' approval to set up largest nuclear power generating site in Maharashtra**

The Government of India has granted 'In-Principle' approval to set up six Nuclear Power Reactors of 1,650 MW each in technical cooperation with France.

The approval to the nuclear power reactors has been accorded to a site in Maharashtra's Jaitapur which will make it the largest nuclear power generating site in India with a total capacity of 9,900 MW. Currently, the techno-commercial discussions are to arrive at the project proposal with M/s. EDF, France is in progress.

### **International Science Festival In Panaji**

The seventh edition of the India International Science Festival began in Panaji. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Launched the 7th edition of the India International Science Festival at Panaji, Goa.

The theme of the 4-day science festival is 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' – "Celebrating Creativity, Science, Technology, and Innovation for a prosperous India."

### **CRPF women commandos soon to be added in VIP security teams, to protect Z-plus personalities**

In a first, a maiden contingent of CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) women commandos who have been trained in VIP security will soon be deployed with Z-Plus personalities such as Home Minister Amit Shah, senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as well as other high-risk facing personalities for multiple duties. CRPF women commandos will also be accompanying them during the upcoming polls in five states.

### **Sports Minister introduced 'Anti-Doping Bill'**

Sports Minister, Anurag Thakur, introduced "Anti-Doping Bill" on December 17, 2021 in Lok Sabha. The bill seeks to provide statutory framework for the functioning of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

Bill empowers NADA to conduct raids and strengthen measures of tackling drug abuse in Indian. It will also provide statutory framework for the operation National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) and other dope testing laboratories as well.

It also provides for creation of a National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports in order to strengthen anti-doping activities in sport.

### **Docprime tech launched India's first ABDM integrated Health Locker**

Docprime tech has launched India's first health locker integrated with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). ABDM was launched in August 2020 for developing an integrated digital health infrastructure in the country.

ABDM integrated Health Locker will provide users a digital and self-consented health data management system without any charges. It will store and manage health records electronically.

## Cabinet Affairs

### Bills on ART and surrogacy passed in Rajya Sabha

The Rajya Sabha passed the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020 and the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2020 in the absence of Opposition on December 8, 2021. The bill has excluded single men, live-in couples, and the LGBTQ community.

### Cabinet approves Ken-Betwa River interlinking project

Union Cabinet approved the Ken-Betwa River interlinking project, ahead of elections to major North Indian states.

Ken-Betwa River Interlinking project is worth Rs 44,605-crore project. This project promises to address the issue of water scarcity in Bundelkhand region, spreading across Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Uttar Pradesh (UP).

### UP cabinet approves Atma Nirbhar Krishak development scheme

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved the Atma Nirbhar Krishak development scheme for boosting the agriculture sector.

Atma Nirbhar Krishak development scheme will be implemented from the current financial year. Under this scheme, 1,475 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) will be formed in the next three years in each development block.

### Parliament passes HC & SC Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021

Bill was passed with the Rajya Sabha returning it to the Lok Sabha following the discussion. Bill was returned to Lok Sabha since it was a money bill.

The Bill seeks to amend “Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958” as well as “High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954”. These Acts regulate the conditions of services and salaries of High Courts & Supreme court judges in India.

### Cabinet approved ₹76,000 crore scheme to boost semiconductor manufacturing

Union Cabinet approved a Rs 76,000-crore scheme for boosting semiconductor and display manufacturing in India. This scheme was approved in order to position India as a global hub for hi-tech production, as well as to attract large chip makers.

It would also strengthen India’s ambitions to be self-reliant in electronics manufacturing and bring huge investments.

### Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 passed by Parliament

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was passed by the Parliament on December 21, 2021 after it was given a go ahead in the Rajya Sabha. The bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on December 20, 2021.

The bill seeks to make amendments to the Representation of the People Act and allow electoral registration officers to seek the Aadhaar number of those who want to register as voters to establish their entity.

### **Cabinet approves implementation of PMKSY for 2021-26**

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for 2021-26.

Scheme was implemented with an outlay of Rs.93,068 crore. CCEA approved central support of Rs.37,454 crore to States. 20,434.56 crore of debt servicing has been approved for loan availed by Government of India to develop irrigation during PMKSY 2016-21.

### **Cabinet approves proposal to raise legal marriage age of women from 18 to 21 years**

Union Cabinet on December 15, 2021 cleared a bill to raise women's legal marriage age from 18 to 21 years after reviewing a proposal from a specially constituted task force.

The task force had made its recommendations after holding extensive consultations with experts and young adults, especially young women.

### **Union cabinet approves Rs 76,000 crore push for semiconductor manufacturing**

Union Cabinet approved a Rs 76,000-crore production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for boosting semiconductor and display manufacturing in India.

With this, the total amount of production linked incentive (PLI) announced for the electronics sector increase to Rs 2.30 lakh crore.

### **Jharkhand assembly passes Bill to prevent mob violence, lynching**

Jharkhand Assembly has passed the Prevention of Mob Violence and Mob Lynching Bill, 2021, which aims at providing "effective protection" of constitutional rights and the prevention of mob violence in the state.

After including one amendment, the Bill was passed and sent to the Governor for his assent. Once notified, Jharkhand will become the fourth state to bring in such a law after West Bengal, Rajasthan and Manipur.

### State-Related Affairs

#### Varanasi became 1st Indian city to start Ropeway Service

Varanasi, a city in Uttar Pradesh is all set to become the first Indian city to start ropeway service as a mode of public transport in order to ease the traffic congestion.

The proposed ropeway will be constructed between Cantt Railway Station (Varanasi Junction) to Church Square (Godauliya) covering an aerial distance of 3.45 km.

Its outlay is over Rs 400 crore which is divided between Central Government and State Government at 80:20. India will be the third country in the world after Bolivia and Mexico to use a ropeway for public transport.

#### Kerala Tourism launched STREET project for experiential tourism

Kerala Tourism launched the 'STREET' project to promote and take tourism deep into the interiors and rural hinterland of Kerala.

The project would help visitors experience the diversity of offerings in these locales. The STREET is an acronym for Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, Tourism hubs.

#### Maharashtra launched Chalo mobile app & smart card for bus travel

Maharashtra Tourism and Environment Minister, Aaditya Thackeray has launched the Chalo mobile application (app) and Chalo smart cards to facilitate digital and advance purchase of Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) bus tickets.

He also launched the NCMC compliant smart card of BEST as well as new fare schemes for the passengers, one that provided 10 trips at Rs 70 and another called 'Flexifare'.

#### TN: Meendum Manjappai Scheme

M.K. Stalin, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, has launched the 'Meendum Manjappai' scheme to encourage people to use cloth bags instead of plastic bags.

This public awareness campaign on the use of the 'yellow' cloth bag, or 'manjapai' in Tamil, aims to encourage people to return to using this eco-friendly bag instead of plastic bags. With effect from January 1, 2019, the state government imposed a ban on the production, use, storage, distribution, transportation, or sale of 14 different types of plastics.

#### Nagaland celebrates its 59th Statehood Day

Nagaland is celebrating its 59th Statehood Day on 1 December 2021. Nagaland was granted statehood on December 1, 1963, with Kohima being declared as its capital.

Prior to this, Naga leaders and the central government reached an agreement to create a separate region of the Naga Hills in 1957. The State of Nagaland Act, 1962, was thus enacted by the Parliament to give Nagaland statehood.

### **Earth Station of Doordarshan Kendra inaugurated in Gorakhpur**

Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated Earth Station of Doordarshan Kendra at Gorakhpur.

Three FM stations of All India Radio were also inaugurated virtually on the occasion. This will be the second earth station of Doordarshan in Uttar Pradesh and it is being built at a cost of Rs.7 crore.

### **Jharkhand CM launched ‘Hamar Apan Budget’ Web Portal**

Jharkhand Chief Minister, Hemant Soren has launched a web portal named ‘Hamar Apan Budget’ and a mobile application prepared by the state finance Department from the Chief Minister’s residential office in Ranchi.

Through this portal, the general public of the state can share their suggestions for the 2022-23 budget. The public can give suggestions through Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp and e-mail and also through the app by downloading the ‘Hamar Budget’ from Google Playstore for Android phones.

### **RBI: Gujarat became India’s Largest Manufacturing Hub**

Gujarat has left behind Maharashtra to become the country’s leading manufacturing hub, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Gujarat saw its Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing grow by 15.9 per cent annually between FY12 to FY20 to stand at Rs 5.11 lakh crore, data shows. GVA is an economic metric that measures the supply of goods and services in an economy.

### **Kazhuveli Wetland declared as 16th Bird Sanctuary of Tamil Nadu**

The Kazhuveli wetland situated in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu has been declared as the 16th Bird Sanctuary by Surpiya Sahu, Environment and Forest Secretary, at the Minister of Environment Forest and Climate Change. The declaration was made under subsection (1) of section 18 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The Kazhuveli wetlands is referred to as the 2nd largest Brackish Water Lake in South India, only after Pulicat lake.

### **India Skills Report 2022: Maharashtra Retains Top Position**

According to the 9th edition of India Skills Report (ISR) 2022, released by Wheebox, Maharashtra has retained the top position in the list of states with the highest poll of employable talent followed by Uttar Pradesh and Kerala.

The theme of ISR 2022 – ‘Rebuilding and Reengineering the Future of Work’. India Skills Report is a full-fledged report about the future of work, education, and skilling to match the talent demand and supply in a growing India.

### **Haiderpur wetland in Uttar Pradesh recognised as Ramsar Site**

The Haiderpur Wetland abutting the Madhya Ganga barrage, about 10 km from Bijnor in western Uttar Pradesh, has been recognised under the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Uttar Pradesh is now home to 9 Ramsar wetlands. The wetland has also been identified under Namami Gange, a central flagship, as a model wetland along the Ganga. With this, there are now a total of 47 such designated areas in the country.

### **Madhya Pradesh govt organised first drone Mela at Gwalior**

In Madhya Pradesh, the first drone fair in the country was organised at Gwalior. Gwalior Drone Mela was organised jointly by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Government of India, the Government of Madhya Pradesh, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

### **World Sangeet Tansen festival organized in Madhya Pradesh**

In Madhya Pradesh, the 97th edition of the World Sangeet Tansen festival started in Gwalior. A five-day World Sangeet Tansen festival starts from December 25 to December 30 in the city.

The stage of the program has been constructed on the theme of the Siddhanath temple situated in Omkareshwar. Many artists not only from India but also from abroad will participate in the music festival.

### **Telangana: First large state to complete 100 per cent 1st dose Covid vaccination**

The State of Telangana has become India’s first state to complete 100 per cent 1st dose Covid-19 vaccination. Telangana has vaccinated 2.77 crore citizens with the first dose.

### **Myanmar: NU Government officially accepts Tether cryptocurrency**

Myanmar’s shadow government has allowed the use of world’s largest cryptocurrency called Tether. Tether Cryptocurrency will be used as an official currency. This move will make it easier to raise funds and make payments.

The National Unity Government (NUG) comprises of pro-democracy groups and some members from Myanmar’s civilian administration, which was overthrown in a military coup recently.

The NUG has been working to raise funds for its revolution of toppling the ruling military government in Myanmar. In the other move, the Military government has outlawed and designated NUG as a terrorist.

### **Delhi Police launched e-learning platform “Unnati”**

Police Commissioner of Delhi, Rakesh Asthana has launched an e-learning platform ‘Unnati’, under the Delhi Police’s flagship scheme ‘YUVA’ at the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Auditorium, New Delhi.

Every year, over 1.5 lakh people are arrested by the Delhi Police for various crimes. More than 85 per cent of them are first-timers and only 10-15 per cent are repeat offenders.

### **Uttarakhand’s Askot Wildlife Sanctuary declared Eco-Sensitive Zone**

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), an area of 454.65 square kilometres around the boundary of Askot Wildlife Sanctuary in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand has been declared as the Askot Wildlife Sanctuary Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ).

The notified area extends from 0 to 22 km around the Askot Wildlife Sanctuary. The Askot Wildlife Sanctuary was established to protect the endangered flagship species Musk Deer and its habitat. The Askot Wildlife Sanctuary is also known as Musk Deer Park.

### **Odisha tie-up with UNCDF to launch “Mission Shakti Living Lab”**

Odisha inked an agreement with United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to launch “Mission Shakti Living Lab” for the financial empowerment of women.

A Global Centre for Financial Health, to launch Mission Shakti Living Lab empowering women economically and drive gender equality. With the use of digital technologies and e-commerce, it will increase the income and financial well-being of women, self-help groups (SHGs) and households by helping them in the factors of planning, saving, borrow or spending better.

### **Assam’s Manohari Gold Tea auctioned for Rs 1 lakh/kg**

A rare variety of Assam tea called Manohari Gold Tea set a record, as it was auctioned at a record price of Rs 99,999 per kg. Manohari Gold Tea created history by breaking its own record.

Saurav Tea Traders bought the Gold Tea, with the highest bid of Rs 99,999 per kg. It is being considered as the highest price ever for tea in a public auction.

### **Tamil Nadu Government Announces Tamil Thaa Vazhthu as the State Song**

The Tamil Nadu government announced Thamizh Thaa Vazhthu as the state song on 17 Dec 2021, requiring everyone to stand when it is sung on occasions.

According to an official statement, a G.O. has been issued in this regard, and the song must be sung at the start of all events hosted by educational institutions, universities, government offices, public sector businesses, and public organizations.

### **Odisha CM inaugurated state’s Longest Bridge over Mahanadi**

Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik inaugurated T-Setu over River Mahanadi. T-Setu is Odisha's longest bridge, constructed over Mahanadi River in Cuttack district. It is a 3.4 km long and 7.5 metre wide bridge.

Bridge connects Gopinathpur in Badamba, Baideswar in Banki to Singhanath Pitha, which is located in the middle of Mahanadi River. Bridge has been built in the shape of English alphabet 'T'. Total cost of the bridge is Rs 111 crore. T-Setu bridge comprises of footpath on both sides. It is of 1.5 metre width.

### **Haryana launches new Integrated Command and Control Center in Karnal**

Haryana chief minister, Manohar Lal Khattar has opened the new Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC) under the Karnal Smart City project. The new Command and Control Center will enable the functioning of advanced systems such as adaptive traffic control, automatic number plate recognition, detection of red-light violation and speed violation.

### **AFSPA in Nagaland: State govt adopts resolution demanding repeal of AFSPA**

The Nagaland Assembly on December 20, 2021, unanimously passed a resolution demanding the repeal of AFSPA in Nagaland.

The resolution for the removal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act was adopted during a special session that was held in aftermath of the botched security ambush that claimed the lives of 14 civilians earlier in December 2021. Massive protests have been held in the Capital, Kohima, with the Nagaland cabinet also recommending the repeal of the law.

### **Tamil Nadu Govt launched monitoring system “CM Dashboard Tamil Nadu 360”**

Tamil Nadu government has launched the Chief Minister (CM) Dashboard monitoring system, “CM Dashboard Tamil Nadu 360” in Chennai.

It will enable CM to track all welfare schemes, including the status of their implementation, fund allocation, and the number of beneficiaries along with updates on the storage of water in dams and rainfall patterns.

### **Himachal Pradesh's Renukaji Dam project**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay down the foundation of Renukaji Dam Project in Himachal Pradesh.

It is a Rs 6,700-crore project on the Giri river in Sirmour district. The project, once completed, is likely to generate 200 million units of energy in a surface power house which have the installed capacity of 40 MW.

## **International Affairs**

### **Barbados becomes the World's newest republic**

Barbados has become the World's newest republic, around 400 years after it became a British colony. Barbados is said to have been made a 'slave society by the British.

It first became an English colony in 1625. It gained its independence in 1966. Barbados, the Caribbean Island nation, removed Queen Elizabeth II as the head of the state.

### **Sweden elects 1st Female Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson**

The former Finance Minister of Sweden, Eva Magdalena Andersson from the Social Democratic Party (SDP) won her 2nd election and became the 1st female Prime Minister (PM) of Sweden.

On 24 November 2021, she was first elected as the PM but later resigned after her coalition partner (Green Party) quit the government and the budget failed to pass. Sweden's Parliament is known as Riksdag. Sweden is the last Nordic country to get a female Prime Minister.

### **Cambridge Dictionary names 'perseverance' Word of the Year 2021**

Perseverance, a word that captures the undaunted will of people across the world to never give up, despite the many challenges of the last 12 months, is Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year 2021.

Perseverance has been looked up more than 243,000 times on the website in 2021, the first time it has made a noticeable appearance. NASA's Perseverance Rover made its final descent to Mars on 18 February.

### **Australia joins US boycott of Beijing Winter Olympics**

Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison announced that, Australia will not send officials to February's Winter Olympics in Beijing. With this move, Australia has joined a US diplomatic boycott of the Winter Olympics Games.

Australia took this decision amid disagreement with China over several issues, ranging from Australia's foreign interference laws to a move to acquire nuclear-powered submarines.

### **World Economic Forum annual meeting 2022 postponed**

The World Economic Forum annual meeting 2022 will be postponed due to the continued uncertainty over the Omicron outbreak. The WEF meeting was scheduled to take place in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland between January 17-21, 2022

The WEF annual meeting is now likely to take place during early summer, World Economic Forum informed. The participants will now instead join a headline series of State of the World sessions that will bring together global leaders online to focus on shaping solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

### **Egypt became fourth new member of New Development Bank**

Egypt added as the fourth new member of BRICS New Development Bank. Bangladesh, UAE, and Uruguay joined BRICS New Development Bank in September 2021.

Membership expansion enables New Development Bank to position itself as a premier development institution for emerging economies. BRICS New Development Bank is a multilateral bank that was established by Brazil, Russia, China, India, and South Africa to finance sustainable development and infrastructure projects.

### **World's longest Metro line opened in Shanghai**

World's longest Metro Line was opened in China's Shanghai Province. With this inauguration, Shanghai uphold its rank as the city with the largest Metro network worldwide. The city opened two new metro lines – Line 14 and Phase One of Line 18.

With this, the total length of metro network in Shanghai has extended to 831 km. It continues to be the longest network across the world. The opening of two new lines has increased the total number of fully automatic metro lines in Shanghai to five, having an operating length of 167 km.

### **Canada, Australia and UK join US boycott of Beijing Olympic**

Canada will join the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics over human rights concerns.

The announcement came after the White House, the Australian government and the UK government confirmed diplomatic boycotts of the Winter Games in February to protest Chinese human rights abuses. China has vowed to react with “firm countermeasures.”

### **Dubai becomes first in the world to go 100% paperless**

In the first, Dubai has become the very first government in the world to turn 100% paperless. The Crown Prince of Emirates, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum shared the news while also pointing at the savings of 1.3 million Dirham (USD 350 Million) and 14-million-man-hours.

All the external and internal transactions and the procedures in Dubai Government are now 100% digital. They are now managed from a comprehensive digital government service platform.

### **UAE becomes first country to transition to 4.5-day Work Week**

The United Arab Emirates has announced to change its existing five-day workweek to a four-and-a-half day starting January 1, becoming the world's first country to make the employee-friendly transition as part of its efforts to improve productivity and work-life balance.

According to the new schedule, Monday to Thursday the work timings would be from 7.30 am to 3.30 pm, followed by a half-day on Friday from 7.30 am to 12.00 pm. Saturdays and Sundays are full-day holidays under the new rule.

### **EU: Malta legalises cannabis at home and for personal use**

Malta has become the first country in European Union to legalise cannabis at home and for personal use. Under the new law, Malta has allowed people aged 18 and above to have up to seven grams of cannabis.

### **China launches “Shijian-6 05” satellites for Space Exploration**

China successfully launched a new group of satellites Shijian-6 05 into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China for space exploration and new technology tests. The satellites were launched by a Long March-4B rocket which marked the 400th mission of Long March series carrier rockets.

The information about the number of satellites has not been specified. As the message reads, they will be used for space exploration and new technology tests.

### **UAE announces to End Censorship in Cinematic releases**

United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced to end the censorship in cinematic releases. UAE administration decided to end censorship, in a bid to attract foreigners. As per latest announcement, government will not cut sensitive scenes which offend the Islamic sentiments.

Administration have also introduced a new ‘above 21 years of age’ category for viewers. Now, movies will be screened in cinemas as per their international version and their classification will be given on the basis of standards of media content in UAE.

### **China’s Draft Law on the Protection of Women Rights**

China’s Standing Committee of National People’s Congress (NPC) started to review a draft amendment to “Law on Protection of Rights & Interests of Women”.

Amendment was proposed amid increasing number of sexual harassment & domestic violence cases and a yearlong #MeToo movement.

### Foreign Relation

#### India, Bangladesh to celebrate Maitiri Diwas on 6 December

India and Bangladesh have decided to celebrate December 6, the day on which India formally recognized Bangladesh, as “Maitri Diwas” (Friendship Day).

During the visit of PM Narendra Modi to Bangladesh in March 2021 to attend the national day of Bangladesh, it was decided to commemorate 6 December as Maitri Diwas (Friendship Day).

#### India and EU will set up Clean Energy and Climate Partnership

India and European Union (EU) have agreed to step up their Clean Energy and Climate Partnership. They jointly agreed on a detailed work program until 2023 to implement the 2016 India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership.

The Panel agreed on increased technical cooperation in energy efficiency, renewable energy, green hydrogen, grid integration, storage, power market design, interconnection, cold chain, and sustainable financing.

#### India-Russia Summit 2021: India, Russia sign 28 MoUs

Russian President Vladimir Putin visited India on December 6, 2021 to participate in the 21st India – Russia Annual summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. President Putin was accompanied by a high level delegation. He held warm and friendly bilateral talks with PM Modi on the sidelines of the summit.

#### India-Maldives joint military Exercise EKUVERIN in Maldives

The 11th edition of Exercise EKUVERIN-21 between India and Maldives, held at Kadhdhoo Island, Maldives. Ekuverin means “Friends” in the Dhivehi language. It is an Indo – Aryan language. It is spoken in India, Lakshadweep and Maldives.

The exercise enhances synergy and inter-operability between the Armed Forces of both nations in terms of understanding transnational terrorism both on land and at sea, conducting Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency Operations and sharing best military practices and experiences.

#### India, Iran and Uzbekistan discuss on Joint use of Chabahar port

India, Iran and Uzbekistan held talks on joint use of the Chabahar Port. They also underlined the importance role played by the port in enhancing regional connectivity.

During the meeting, the three countries discussed further development of transportation corridor across the port.

Chabahar seaport is in Chabahar located in Iran, on the Gulf of Oman. The port serves as the only oceanic port of Iran. It comprises of two separate ports namely, Shahid Kalantari and

Shahid Beheshti. Each of the ports have five berths. It is located at around 170 kilometres west of Gwadar port in Pakistan.

### **India-Vietnam cooperation in postal sector**

India and Vietnam signed a letter of intent for enhanced cooperation in the postal sector. It was signed in line with the comprehensive strategic & economic ties between both the countries.

The letter of intent highlights the joint objectives of India and Vietnam:

- To facilitate cooperation in the field of posts & telecom
- To promote sharing of information & experience
- To cooperate in implementing projects in HR development and
- To promote enhanced cooperation of postal designated operators & service providers.

## Ranks & Indices

### World's most expensive cities list: Tel Aviv ranked world's costliest city

World's most expensive city: Tel Aviv has become the world's most expensive city to live in, surpassing Paris and Singapore as per the Economist Intelligence Unit's Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Tel Aviv climbed from 5th place to the top in 2021 due to the rising value of the Israeli currency shekel against US Dollar and the increase in the price of grocery and transport.

### EIU's WoLiving Index Worldwide Cost of 2021 announced

Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) has announced the Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021.

According to the Index, Tel Aviv, Israel has become the most expensive city in the world to live in in 2021, pushing Paris, France and Singapore jointly to occupy the second spot with Zurich and Hong Kong at the fourth and fifth spots respectively.

### World Cooperative Monitor report 2021: IFFCO ranks first

The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been ranked 'number one Cooperative' among the top 300 cooperatives in the world.

The ranking is based on the ratio of turnover over the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. It signifies that IFFCO is contributing significantly to the GDP and economic growth of the nation. The 2021 edition of the 10th Annual World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report, withholding its position from the 2020 edition.

### Asia Power Index 2021: India Ranked as Fourth

According to Lowy Institute Asia Power Index 2021, India has ranked 4th most powerful country in the Asia-Pacific region for comprehensive power out of 26 countries, with an overall score of 37.7 out of 100.

India's overall score declined by 2 points compared to 2020. India again falls short of the major power threshold in 2021. India is one of 18 countries in Asia to trend downward in its overall score in 2021.

### FM Nirmala Sitharaman Ranked 37th on Forbes' 2021 World's 100 Most Powerful Women

Finance Minister(FM) of India, Nirmala Sitharaman has ranked 37th on the Forbes' list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women 2021 or 18th Edition of Forbes' list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women. She has been featured on the list for the 3rd year in a row.

She was ranked 41st on the list in 2020 and 34th in 2019. India's seventh woman billionaire and the wealthiest self-made billionaire, Falguni Nayar, founder and CEO, Nykaa was ranked

88th on the list. Only 4 Indian Women ranked in Forbes 2021 World's 100 Most Powerful Women List.

### **World Inequality Report 2022 announced**

France-based World Inequality Lab published its report titled "World Inequality Report 2022". This report was authored by Lucas Chancel, who is the co-director of World Inequality Lab. It was coordinated by famed French economist Thomas Piketty.

### **Only 56% Of Funds Utilized By States In Last 3 Years For The Nutrition Mission**

State Governments and Union Territories have utilized only 56% of the total budgets released under Poshan Abhiyan or Nutrition Mission in the earlier 3 years.

#### **Five States & UTs With Lowest Use:**

- Arunachal Pradesh (25.14%)
- Puducherry (28.03%)
- Ladakh (31.2%)
- Punjab (33.62%) and
- Uttar Pradesh (33.73%).

#### **Five States & UTs With Highest Use:**

- Nagaland (98.34%)
- Meghalaya (98.14%)
- Mizoram (94.22%)
- Sikkim (93.13%) and
- Dadra & Nagar Haveli (88.2%).

### **IIHB Annual Survey**

Chairman of Reliance Industries, Mukesh Ambani, and his wife Nita Ambani have topped the list of power couples according To the Indian Institute of Human Brands IIHB Survey.

- Ambani power-couple conducted the field on dynamic, successful, innovative, unique, prestigious, progressive, and traditional features.
- Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone were indexed at Number 2 for best on characteristics like fun, charming, distinctive, different, and made for each other.
- Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma occupied third place on high quality, outdoorsy, authentic, and best brands.
- This result was drafted after covering a sample size of 1,362 responses aged between 25-40 years.
- IIHB incorporated business couples into the list for the first time this year.

### **IMD World Competitive Centres World Talent Ranking Report**

The Ranking is structured to support three factors – Investment and development, Appeal and Readiness, and Readiness of skilled labour.

- In the report, Europe has dominated the Ranking in 2021. Global top 10 countries are from this region.
- Switzerland has retained its top spot. The UAE continues to improve its global talent ranking.
- The Ranking has improved from one position to the 23rd. In 2019, it was ranked 30th.
- In the Arab world, UAE maintained its top position. In the Middle East & North Africa, UAE maintained its second position, following Israel (first during this region).
- Israel has been ranked 22nd. Taiwan has been ranked third place in Asia while at 16th place overall.
- Its Ranking has improved by four places as compared to 2020.
- In Asia, Taiwan has been ranked behind Hong Kong (11) and Singapore (12) but before South Korea (34), China (36), and Japan (39).
- The UAE has been ranked first in sub-indexes of Readiness of skilled labour, student mobility inbound, competent senior managers and appeal for zero income tax.

### **Uttar Pradesh holds the top position in Total Registered EVs**

Winter Session of the Parliament, Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, informed the Rajya Sabha on the state of Electric Vehicles (EV) in India.

As per the data, India has a total of 870,141 registered EVs, with Uttar Pradesh (UP) holding the top spot with 255,700 registered EVs. UP is followed by Delhi (125,347), Karnataka (72,544), Bihar (58,014) and Maharashtra (52,506) in successive positions.

### **TIME Magazine's 'Person of the Year' for 2021: Elon Musk**

The prestigious TIME magazine has named Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, as the “2021 Person of the Year. In 2021, US-based electric-vehicle startup Tesla became \$1 trillion company as Musk became the world's richest person with an estimated net worth of around US \$255 billion.

Musk is also the founder and CEO of rocket company SpaceX, and leads brain-chip start-up Neuralink and infrastructure firm The Boring Company.

### **Truecaller: India fourth most affected country by spam calls in 2021**

Spam call rates in India have spiked again, with the country moving up in global rankings from 9th position to 4th position owing to a significant increase in sales and telemarketing calls in 2021, according to the latest insights by callerID, spam detection and blocking company, Truecaller.

The upward movement is a direct result of a significant increase in sales and telemarketing calls, which in India make up about 93.5% of all spam calls.

### **CEBR: India to become 3rd largest economy in 2031**

The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) from the United Kingdom has predicted that the Indian economy will become the world's third-largest by the year 2031. In the year 2022, India is set to regain its sixth position in World Economic League Table (WELT) from France, as per CEBR.

### **Foundational Literacy Index: West Bengal on top in large states category**

The Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister recently released a report on the ‘Index on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy’.

The report on the literacy rate in India is an indicator of literacy among children below the age of 10 years in Indian states that are further divided into different categories.

On one hand, in the ‘large states category’, West Bengal has topped the charts while Bihar is on the bottom, Kerala can be seen on a top spot in the ‘small states category’.

### **YouGov: PM Modi world’s 8th most admired man in 2021**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ranked 8th on the list of the world’s top 20 most admired men, in a survey carried out by data analytics company YouGov.

PM Modi is ahead of Shah Rukh Khan, Amitabh Bachchan and Virat Kohli. The list has been compiled taking feedback from 42,000 people in 38 countries.

Apart from PM Modi, the other Indian men who, according to the survey, were the most admired in 2021 include Sachin Tendulkar, Shah Rukh Khan, Amitabh Bachchan and Virat Kohli.

The list also includes the most admired Indian women of 2021 has Priyanka Chopra, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Sudha Murty.

### **WADA report: India among world’s top three dope violators country**

India is among the world’s top three dope violators country in the world. Indian athletes were involved 152 times in dope-related activities in the year 2019.

The report has revealed the latest report published by the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada), which has put India into the top-three of the world’s biggest violators behind Russia (167) and Italy (157). Brazil (78) is at fourth and Iran (70) fifth positions.

In 2019, 152 (17 per cent of the world total) Anti-doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) were reported in India. The maximum dope offenders are from bodybuilding followed by weightlifting (25), athletics (20), wrestling (10), and boxing.

### **Wizikey Report: Reliance is India’s most-visible corporate in media**

Reliance Industries Ltd, India’s largest corporate by revenues, profits and market value, topped the 2021 Wizikey News Score ranking as India’s most-visible corporate in the media.

State Bank of India is a close second on the ranking, followed by Bharti Airtel, Infosys and Tata Motors. Others on the India list include HDFC at the sixth spot, followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Maruti Suzuki India, Vodafone Idea and ICICI Bank.

### **IIT Roorkee bags first position among most innovative institutions by CII**

IIT Roorkee has been selected by the prestigious Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the Industrial Innovation Awards.

IIT Roorkee bagged the first position under the Most Innovative Research Institutions category this year. Last year, IIT Roorkee was adjudged as ‘The Most Innovative Institute of the Year’ for its innovation quotient.

### **NITI Aayog Health Index 2021- Kerala tops among larger states, Mizoram among smaller**

Niti Aayog released the fourth edition of its state health index for 2019-20 on December 27, 2021. The report, titled “Healthy States, Progressive India”, ranks states and Union Territories based on their year-on-year incremental performance in health as well as their overall status.

Kerala retained its top rank on the health index among the larger states while Uttar Pradesh was the worst. Mizoram topped the health index among smaller states while Nagaland was ranked at the bottom.

Among union territories, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu was ranked at the top and Andaman & Nicobar was ranked at the bottom.

### **Good Governance Index 2021: Gujarat, Delhi grabs top spot**

The Good Governance Index 2021 was released by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah on December 25, 2021. The GGI Index has been prepared by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

The Good Governance Index 2021 has seen an improved composite score by 20 states, with Uttar Pradesh registering an 8.9% improvement in Good Governance Index indicators from 2019 to 2021.

In Good Governance Index 2021, Gujarat and Delhi have bagged a top spot in the composite ranking.

While addressing an event organized to mark the Good Governance Day on December 25, 2021, Home Minister Amit Shah noted that people have been long waiting for Good Governance which was delivered by PM Modi government in the last 7 years.

### **IIT Madras bagged the first position in ARIIA Rankings 2021**

IIT Madras has bagged the first position in the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2021, for the third consecutive year, under the category of CFTIs/ Central Universities/ Institute of National Importance (Technical).

The third edition of the ARIIA ranking was dominated by the IITs in the centrally funded institution category. Seven IITs are on the top-10 list.

IIT-Madras is followed by IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IT Kanpur, and IIT Roorkee. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru bagged the sixth position in the category.

### **Axis Bank is 2nd largest in PoS machines**

Axis Bank has become the second-largest merchant-acquiring bank in the country, leapfrogging two spaces during 2021 by installing over two lakh card-swipe machines during the year.

This is part of the bank's 'Axis One' strategy where it approaches the customers by offering its entire gamut of products instead of a standalone service.

### Business News

#### Paytm partnered with AWS to offer startup Toolkits for entrepreneurs

Paytm, a leading digital ecosystem for consumers and merchants has partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer Paytm Startup Toolkit with exclusive payment services to early-stage Indian startups. Paytm will help entrepreneurs to grow businesses with payment, distribution, and growth solutions who are operating in India in the AWS Activate.

#### Airtel, Invest India launch ‘Startup Innovation Challenge’

Bharti Airtel and Invest India, National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency jointly launched ‘Airtel India Startup Innovation Challenge’ for Startups to develop solutions in 5G, IoT.

Under the Startup Innovation Challenge, early-stage technology companies are being invited to demonstrate differentiated solutions in areas such as 5G, Cloud computing, the Internet of Things (IoT), and digital entertainment.

#### ISRO, Oppo collaborate to strengthen R&D of NavIC messaging service

The Indian Space Research Organisation has signed an agreement with Chinese smart devices maker Oppo’s Indian arm to strengthen the research and development of the NavIC messaging service.

The messaging service is mainly used for broadcasting safety-of-life alerts in areas with poor or no communication, particularly in the oceans. Oppo India has its manufacturing unit in Noida and an R&D centre in Hyderabad.

#### TVS Motor and BMW Motorrad tie up to make electric vehicles

India’s TVS Motor Company will develop electric vehicles (EV) with BMW’s motorcycle brand in India, joining a host of Indian automakers that have sought to expand their clean mobility offering.

The tie-up comes at a time when new-age start-ups like Ola Electric & Ather are ramping up investment in electric scooters.

#### Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade launches LogiXtics

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has launched the Unified Logistics Interface Platform’s (ULIP) hackathon – ‘LogiXtics’ to crowdsource more ideas that will benefit the logistics industry.

The Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) Hackathon – LogiXtics is being organised by NITI Aayog and Atal Innovation Mission.

#### Wipro to acquire Edgile in USD 230-million deal

Wipro has signed an agreement to acquire Edgile, a transformational cyber security consulting provider, for \$230 million.

Founded in 2001, Edgile is recognised by security and risk leaders for its business-aligned cyber security capability, deep understanding of the changing regulatory environment and enabling cloud transformations that help secure the modern enterprise. It has an onsite workforce of 182 employees.

### **State Bank of India acquired minority stake in JSW Cement for INR 100 crore**

State Bank of India(SBI) acquired a minority stake (less than 50 per cent) in JSW Cement Limited for an investment of INR 100 crore through Compulsory Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS).

The SBI is working as a strategic investor at JSW Cement and has invested in the company through CCPS.

The conversion of such CCPS into common equity of the company will be linked to the JSW Cement's business performance and valuation at the time of the proposed initial public offering.

### **SBI to acquire 9.95% stake in GIFT-IFSC-based Clearing Corp**

State Bank of India will acquire up to 9.95 per cent stake in India International Clearing Corporation (IFSC) Ltd subject to a maximum investment of Rs 34.03 crore. The Clearing Corporation is a GIFT City (Gandhinagar, Gujarat) based Market Infrastructure Institution (MII).

The Corporation is the first international clearing corporation to be set up at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) International Financial Services Centre (IFSC). The Clearing Corporation acts as a central counterparty providing clearing & settlement and risk management services to India International Exchange (IFSC) Ltd.

## Defence News

### CDS General Bipin Rawat, Wife among 13 Dead as IAF Mi-17V5 helicopter crashes in Tamil Nadu

The Indian Air Force has confirmed that General Bipin Rawat and his wife Madhulika Rawat are among the 13 people who have died in the unfortunate crash of the Indian Airforce Helicopter Mi-17V5 between Coimbatore and Sullur in Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu on December 8, 2021.

The lone survivor of the tragic crash is Group Captain Varun Singh SC, Directing Staff at DSSC who is currently undergoing treatment at the Military Hospital in Wellington.

CDS Bipin Rawat was on a visit to Defence Services Staff College, Wellington (Nilgiri Hills) to address the faculty and student officers of the Staff Course today when their military helicopter crashed onto the Nilgiris and burst into flames.

### CCI approves acquisition of Air India stake by Tata sons

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of Air India, Air India SATS Airport and Air India Express by Talace, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Sons. Currently, Air India is wholly owned by the government.

Air India, along with AIXL, is primarily engaged in business of providing domestic scheduled air passenger transport service, air cargo transport services and international scheduled air passenger transport service.

### ASIGMA: Indian Army's In-house Messaging app

The Indian Army launched a contemporary messaging application named, ASIGMA, which is dubbed as "Army Secure IndiGeneous Messaging Application".

It will replace the AWAN (Army Wide Area Network) messaging application. AWAN has been in service for last 15 years.

The new generation web-based messaging application has been developed entirely in-house, exclusively by a team of officers of 'Corps of Signals' of the Indian Army.

## Science & Technology

### LCRD Launched By NASA

NASA launched its new Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD) on 7 December from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

- LCRD is NASA's first-ever laser transmissions system, which will help NASA test optical communication in space. Most NASA spacecraft use radio frequency transmissions to send data but, Optical transmissions will help improve the bandwidth by 10 to 100 times corresponding to radiofrequency systems.
- LCRD will also show all of the advantages of using laser systems. In future lasers, communications can be executed on more missions to normalize sending and receiving data.
- LCRD payload is hosted onboard the Space Test Program Satellite 6 (STPSat-6) of the US Department of Defense Space and in a geosynchronous orbit, about 35,000 km above Earth.

### Indian origin Anil Menon is SpaceX's first flight surgeon

Nasa-turned-SpaceX flight surgeon, Anil Menon is among the 10 latest trainee astronauts who will join the 2021 class of the American space agency as it plans for the first human missions to the moon in more than 50 years.

He is born to Indian and Ukrainian parents and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Menon is a lieutenant colonel in the US air force.

### DRDO test-fired air version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

India successfully test-fired the air version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the integrated test range of Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha. The air version of the missile was test-fired from supersonic fighter aircraft Sukhoi 30 MK-I.

BrahMos is a joint venture between DRDO (India) and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (Russia) for the development, production, and marketing of the supersonic cruise missile which has been inducted into the Indian Armed Forces.

### DRDO successfully conducted flight test of HEAT 'Abhyas'

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted a flight test of Indigenously developed High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'Abhyas' from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off Odisha coast.

During its trial, a high subsonic speed trajectory at a very low altitude with high endurance was demonstrated. It is Developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), DRDO laboratory along with other laboratories.

### NASA's launched world's largest telescope named James Webb Space

NASA's \$10 billion telescopes James Webb Space Telescope designed to capture the first glimpse of the universe just shortly after the Big Bang is targeted for blastoff from the European Space Agency's Kourou, French Guiana.

The revolutionary world's first-of-its-kind space-science observatory of the next decade will capture the earliest galaxies believed to have formed during the early universe's formation. The new telescope will help scientists to probe the structures and origins of our universe and our place in it.

### **Agni P': India test fires new-gen nuclear capable ballistic missile**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile 'Agni P'. Agni P was launched from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha.

Trajectory and parameters of the missile was tracked and monitored by several telemetry, electro-optical stations, radar, and down range ships positioned along eastern coast. Agni P followed textbook trajectory and met all the objectives of mission with high level of accuracy.

### **PM Modi launches blockchain-based digital degrees at IIT Kanpur**

Under the National Blockchain Project, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched blockchain-based digital degrees at the 54th Convocation Ceremony of IIT Kanpur.

Later Prime Minister also inaugurated the completed section of the Kanpur Metro Rail Project and the Bina-Panki Multiproduct Pipeline Project. These digital degrees can be verified globally and are unforgeable.

### **International Solar Alliance receives Observer Status from UN General Assembly**

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has granted Observer Status to the International Solar Alliance. The news was announced by India's Permanent Ambassador to the UN, T S Tirumurti on December 9, 2021.

He also termed it as a historic decision and said that the International Solar Alliance has become an example of positive global climate action through partnerships benefitting global energy growth and development.

### **SANT Missile: DRDO successfully flight tests indigenously developed Stand-Off Anti-Tank Missile**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Air Force on December 11, 2021, flight tested the indigenously developed and designed Stand-Off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile from Pokhran Range. According to Defence Ministry, the Sant missile test was successful in meeting all its objectives.

The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the team associated with SANT Missile test. DRDO's Chairman Dr G Satheesh Reddy also said that the successful test of

SANT missile will give a further boost to the indigenous defence capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces.

### **IAF-DRDO flight-tested Helicopter-launched SANT Missile**

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully flight-tested the indigenously designed and developed Helicopter launched (air-launched) Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile from the Pokhran range in Rajasthan. For the first time that this was launched from a Russian origin Mi-35 helicopter gunship.

### **Askot Wildlife Sanctuary Declared Eco-Sensitive Zone**

Ministry of Environment, Forest, and global climate change (MoEF&CC) proclaimed Askot Wildlife Sanctuary as Eco-sensitive Zone.

A neighborhood of 454.65 square kilometers around the boundary of Askot Wildlife Sanctuary within the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand has been declared because of the Askot Wildlife Sanctuary Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ).

### **ISRO signed six agreements with four countries for launching foreign satellites**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed six agreements with four countries for launching foreign satellites during 2021-2023. About 132 million Euros would be earned through the launching of these foreign satellites on a commercial basis.

The ISRO-Indian space agency, founded in 1969 to develop an independent Indian space program. Minister of State for Atomic Energy and Space Dr Jitendra Singh has said that ISRO has launched a total of 342 satellites from 34 countries since 1999.

### **India successfully tests 'Pralay' missile off Odisha coast**

India successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenously-developed, surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay' off the Odisha coast. The solid-fuel, battlefield missile developed by the Defence Research Development Organisation is based on Prithvi Defence Vehicle from the Indian ballistic missile programme. The missile, launched from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island.

### **Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS)- Partner in NASA-ISRO research programme**

The Kerala University of Fisheries & Ocean Studies (KUFOS) has been chosen to join a research project under a NASA-ISRO collaborative programme. KUFOS will join the research programme by Space Application Centre of ISRO.

NASA and ISRO have been jointly developing a space-borne synthetic aperture radar (NISAR). It will be launched in January 2023.

### **Ziyuan-1 02E- China's New Earth resources observation satellite**

A new Chinese Earth observation satellite named “Ziyuan-1 02E” was launched into space by China. The satellite was launched for exploring natural resources.

It also launched a smaller satellite, which will be used for teaching geography at a school in Beijing.

Both the satellites took off from the Taiyuan Launch Center in Sjanxi Province, aboard the Long March 4C rocket.

### **China launches new camera satellite with 5m resolution**

China has launched a new satellite with a camera capable of taking photos of the ground with a resolution of five meters, according to the National Space Administration of China (CNSA).

The satellite, called “Ziyuan-1 02E” or “Five Meter 02 Optical Satellite”. Beijing time by a Long March-4C rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Beijing Province. Shanxi (northern China). This is the 39th launch of the Longue Marche-4C rocket and the 403rd launch of the entire Long March series.

## Book News

### A Book titled ‘Pride, Prejudice and Punditry’ by Dr Shashi Tharoor

Former union minister and Lok Sabha Member of Parliament Dr. Shashi Tharoor’s 23rd book titled ‘Pride, Prejudice and Punditry’ was launched in Hyderabad, Telangana.

There are ten sections in this book, each devoted to a particular topic such as modern Indian history, Indian Politics, etc. He has won ‘Sahitya Akademi Award’ for 2019, awarded to his book – ‘An Era of Darkness.

### The book ‘Raj Kapoor: The Master at Work’ authored by Rahul Rawail released

Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has released the book titled ‘Raj Kapoor: The Master At Work’ authored by Rahul Rawail.

The book launch event was held at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, coinciding with Raj Kapoor’s 97th birth anniversary. The vice president described the book as a “labour of love and dedication”.

### A book title “Rewinding the first 25 years of MeitY! by SS Oberoi

The book titled ‘Rewinding of First 25 years of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology’ authored by S S Oberoi, the former adviser at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) was launched by Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary of MeitY.

The book consists of life experience, challenges working as an advisor under the MeitY. He was the first head of the Software Development Agency and the first adviser of Information Technology.

## Sports News

Team Name	Tournament Name	Extra Information
Lewis Hamilton	Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (GP)	Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won the inaugural edition of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (GP), by surpassing Max Verstappen (Netherlands) in the event held at the 30-kilometre (18.6-mile) coastal resort area in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Viktor Axelsen, Tai Tzu Ying	2021 BWF Player of the Year	Denmark's Viktor Axelsen and China's Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying were named Male and Female player of the year 2021 respectively by the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
Russia	Davis Cup tennis tournament 2021	The Davis Cup 2021 was won by the Russian Tennis Federation by a 2-0 lead over Croatia in the Davis Cup final in Madrid.
PV Sindhu	Silver at BWF World Tour Finals 2021	The reigning world champion PV Sindhu has won the BWF World Tour finals in 2018 and became the only Indian to achieve the feat.
Sanket Mahadev Sargar	gold in Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021	Sargar has also qualified for the upcoming 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.
India	41 medals at Asian Youth Para Games 2021	India claimed 41 medals (12 Gold, 15 Silver, 14 Bronze) at the 4th Asian Youth Para Games (AYPG), Asia's biggest event held at Riffa city, Bahrain. The event is organized by the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Bahrain with the support of the local government.
Manipur	Senior Womens National Football Championship	Manipur successfully fended their Senior Women's National Football

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		Championship crown after a dramatic penalty shootout altered Railways within the final at the EMS Stadium in Kozhikode, Kerala, on 9 December.
Verstappen	F1 world championship title	Red Bull's 24-year-old Dutch driver Max Verstappen won Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, the last race of the season, to win the Formula One 2021 world championship.
Ajay Singh	Weightlifting C'ships gold, qualifies for CWG 2022	Indian weightlifter Ajay Singh won a gold medal in men's 81kg category at ongoing Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021 in Tashkent.
Magnus Carlsen	FIDE World Chess Championship	He beat Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia, securing the one point he needed to cross the seven-point threshold to win the global tournament held at Dubai's Expo 2020 this month in the United Arab Emirates.
India	Asian Rowing Championship – Six medals	India bagged silver medals in Men's Lightweight Double Sculls, Men's Quadrapul Sculls and in Men's Coxless Four. In Lightweight Men's Double Sculls, India's Ashish Phugat and Sukhjinder Singh won the silver.
Max Verstappen	Abu Dhabi GP 2021 F-1 Drivers' championship	Mercedes bagged another World Constructor's Championship title but were denied the double they would have wanted. Verstappen ended the season with 10 wins to Hamilton's eight, having also led more laps and taken more poles and podiums.
Loh Kean Yew	BWF World Championships 2021	The 2021 Badminton World Federation (BWF) World

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		championship (officially known as the TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2021), an annual tournament was held between 12th December 2021 and 19th December 2021 in Huelva, Spain.
Bangladesh	SAFF U 19 Women's Championship	The 2021 SAFF U-19 Women's Championship was the 2nd edition of the SAFF U-19 Women's Championship.
Anahat Singh	Becomes first Indian girl to win Jr Squash Open in US	Indian teenager Anahat Singh has scripted history by winning the U-15 girls category of the prestigious Junior US Open Squash tournament in Philadelphia.
Pankaj Advani	National Billiards Title 2021	Pankaj Advani successfully defended his National Billiards Title by winning his 11th tournament in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. He won after defeating his PSPB teammate Dhruv Sitwala in a 5-2 game final.
Himachal Pradesh	Vijay Hazare Trophy 2021	Himachal Pradesh won the Vijay Hazare Trophy for the first time by defeating Tamil Nadu in the final by 11 runs (VJD Method). The Vijay Hazare Trophy 2021 Happened at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.
Nitesh Kumar	Gold at 4th Para-Badminton National Championship	Haryana's Nitesh along with his partner Tarun Dhillon defeated World No. 1 Paralympic Games gold medallist Pramod Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar in straight sets 21-19, 21-11 in the Men's doubles finals to win the gold.
Uttar Pradesh	11th Hockey India junior national championship	Uttar Pradesh has crowned the winners of the 11th Junior National Men's Hockey Championship following a 3-1 victory over

		Chandigarh in the final at Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu.
Jasprit Bumrah	Achieves Milestone of Picking 100 Test Wickets	Jasprit Bumrah has achieved the milestone of picking 100 wickets away from home in 22 Test matches. Van der Dussen became Bumrah's 100th Test victim in overseas conditions.
Mohammed Shami	Becomes 11th Indian bowler to take 200 wickets in Test cricket	Also, Shami is the third fastest Indian pacer to reach this milestone as Kapil Dev and Javagal Srinath bagged 200 Test wickets in 50 and 54 Tests respectively.

## Obituary

Name	Associated Field
Shiva Shankar	National Award-winning Choreographer
'Sirivennela' Seetharama Sastry	Veteran Telugu film lyricist
Konijeti Rosaiah	Former Andhra Pradesh CM
Vinod Dua	Veteran journalist
Sarada Menon	India's 1st Woman Psychiatrist
Eileen Ash	World's Oldest Test Cricketer
Anne Rice	American gothic-fiction writer
Bipin Rawat	Chief of Indian Defence force
GT Nanavati	Headed '2002 Godhra Riots' passes away
Desmond Tutu	South African anti-apartheid hero and Nobel Peace Prize laureate
E.O. Wilson	Father of Biodiversity

## Important Days and Themes

Days	Date	Themes
World AIDS Day	December 01	End inequalities. End AIDS
International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	December 02	
World Computer Literacy Day	December 02	
National Pollution Control Day	December 02	
International Day of Banks	December 04	
Indian Navy Day	December 04	
Indian Armed Forces Flag Day	December 07	
International Civil Aviation Day	December 07	Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development
National Armed Forces Flag Day	December 07	
International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime	December 09	
International Anti-Corruption Day	December 09	Your right, your role: say no to corruption
Human Rights Day	December 10	EQUALITY – Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights
International Mountain Day	December 11	sustainable mountain tourism.
International Universal Health Coverage Day	December 12	Leave No One's Health Behind: Invest in health systems for all
International Day of Neutrality	December 12	
National Energy Conservation Day	December 14	
International Tea Day	December 15	
World Arabic Language Day	December 18	The Arabic Language and Civilizational Communication
National Minorities Rights Day	December 18	
International Migrants Day	December 18	Harnessing the potential of human mobility

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International Human Solidarity Day	December 20	
Good Governance Week	December 20 -25	
Indian National Farmer's Day	December 23	
National Consumer Day	December 24	Tackling Plastic Pollution
Good Governance Day	December 25	