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Awards and Honours

Recipient Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Damon Galgut	Booker Prize	South African playwright and novelist, Damon Galgut has won the 2021 Booker Prize for “The Promise”, his third shortlisted novel which chronicles a family in his homeland from the late apartheid era through to Jacob Zuma’s presidency.
Priyanka Mohite	2020’s Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award	Maharashtra-based, 28-year old mountaineer Priyanka Mohite was selected by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the prestigious ‘Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020’ for outstanding contribution in the field of land adventure.
M Mukundan	2021 JCB Prize	Author M Mukundan won the 2021 JCB prize for Literature, for his book ‘Delhi: A Soliloquy’. The book, which has originally been written in Malayalam has been translated into English by Fathima EV and Nandakumar K.
KVG Bank	ASSOCHAM award for Best Digital Financial Services	The Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) got the award for the best ‘Digital Financial Services’, in line with India’s vision of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’, under the ‘Regional Rural Banks’.
Beryl Thanga	Manipur State Award for his novel	Manipur Governor La. Ganesan conferred the award on the 65-year-old writer for his novel published in 2015. The award carries a plaque, citation, Rs. 3 lakh (in cheque) and a shawl.
Hema Malini, Prasoon Joshi	Film Personalities of the Year at IFFI	Their contributions to the field of Indian cinema spread over decades and their body of work has enthralled audiences across generations.
Prakash Padukone	lifetime achievement award	Indian badminton legend Prakash Padukone has been selected for the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021 by the Badminton

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		World Federation (BWF) Council.
Jason Mott	2021 National Book Award for fiction	Jason Mott won the 2021 National Book Award for fiction for his novel “Hell of a Book”, a narrative about a black author’s adventure while travelling around in a book tour.
Abhinandan Varthaman	Vir Chakra	Abhinandan Varthaman, Indian Air Force ace pilot Group Captain, was accorded Vir Chakra by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind in an investiture ceremony on November 22, 2021.
Anita Desai	Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award	India’s one of the best-selling authors, Anita Desai has been conferred with the Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021 to recognise her long literary career which spans over 50 years.
Doordarshan and AIR	UNESCO-ABU Peace Media Awards 2021	The awards were given by UNESCO in collaboration with Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union under the ‘Together for Peace’ initiative.
S K Sohan Roy	Knighthood of Parte Guelfa	Dr S K Sohan Roy from Kerala, CEO, and founder of Aries Group of Companies has become the first Indian to be honoured with the Knighthood of Parte Guelfa for his humanitarian and Environmental protection efforts in business and movies.

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Appointments

Name	Designation	Extra Information
Ashok Bhushan	Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)	He was the former Chief Justice of Kerala High Court. NCLAT was formed by the government under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013.
Arun Chawla	Director-General of FICCI	Industry chamber Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) named Arun Chawla as its new director-general.
CS Venkatakrishnan	Barclays' new chief	Barclays new CEO is CS Venkatakrishnan, an Indian-American and the first person of color to hold that position.
Rajib Kumar Mishra	PTC India Ltd - chairman and managing director	Rajib Kumar Mishra shall exercise the power of chairman and managing director of PTC India Ltd, subsequent to relieving of Deepak Amitabh. PTC India Ltd. (formerly known as Power Trading Corporation of India Limited)
Amitabh Bachchan	brand ambassador of Amway India	Amway India, a Direct Selling FMCG company announced the appointment of Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan as its brand ambassador.
Sheel Vardhan Singh	Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) – Head	The government has announced the appointment of chiefs of two key Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). These are the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
R Hari Kumar	Chief of the Naval Staff	He will take on the new role with effect from November 30, 2021. He will replace the incumbent Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Karambir Singh, who will complete his tenure on November 30, 2021.
Fumio Kishida	Prime Minister of Japan	Fumio Kishida succeeded Yoshihide Suga who resigned as PM of Japan in September 2021.
Mohammed Siraj	My11Circle Brand Ambassador	Mohammed Siraj plays for the Indian team and represents Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL.

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P.C. Mody	Rajya Sabha Secretary General	Ramacharyulu meanwhile has been reassigned as an advisor for one year term. Ramacharyulu has now been appointed as an advisor in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.
Daniel Brühl	Goodwill Ambassador of UN-World Food Programme	As the goodwill ambassador, he will inform about the main drivers of hunger and showcase the efforts of UN WFP to tackle both immediate needs and root causes of hunger.
Rahul Dravid	Brand ambassador of kids footwear brand Plaeto	Plaeto is India's first D2C foot-health focused footwear brand designed specifically for Indian children. Plaeto was founded in March 2020 by Ravi Kallayil, Sara Kilgore and Pavan Kareti.
VVS Laxman	Head of National Cricket Academy	The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President Sourav Ganguly on November 14, 2021, confirmed that former India batsman VVS Laxman will take charge as the Head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA).
Sourav Ganguly	Chairman of ICC Men's Cricket Committee	He will be succeeding Anil Kumble, who stepped down from the post after having served a maximum of three, 3-year terms.
Shombi Sharp	UN Resident Coordinator in India	The United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres has appointed Shombi Sharp of the United States (US), a sustainable development expert, as the UN Resident Coordinator in India.
Salman Khan	Maharashtra government - Covid vaccination ambassador	Maharashtra is leading in terms of the number of vaccine shots administered, but in some areas the pace of vaccination is low.
Kamala Harris	US presidential powers	US Vice-President Kamala Harris on November 19, 2021, became the first female acting President of the United States for one hour and 25 minutes when US President Joe Biden temporarily transferred power to Harris while he went under anesthesia for a routine colonoscopy.

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Geoff Allardice	Permanent CEO of ICC	Allardice, a former Australian first-class cricketer and administrator, was the ICC General Manager, Cricket for eight years. He had previously held a similar role at Cricket Australia.
Abdalla Hamdok	Sudan's PM	Before becoming prime minister, Hamdok worked for the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and as a special adviser at the Trade and Development Bank in Ethiopia.
Sheikh Sabah Al Khaled Al Sabah	Prime Minister of Kuwait	He has also been awarded with the Order of King Abdulaziz of First Class in 1998 by Saudi Arabia.

Banking & Finance

Kotak Mahindra Bank partnered NPCI to launch Rupay Credit Cards ‘Veer’

Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch Kotak credit cards on the RuPay network named ‘Veer’ for Indian armed forces i.e. the Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel. In India’s 75th year of Independence, the first credit card to be introduced by KMBL on the RuPay network is the ‘Veer’ credit card, exclusively for the armed forces.

ADB approves \$250 million loan for India’s NICDP

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 250 million (about Rs 1,875 crore) loan to support India’s National Industrial Corridor Development Program (NICDP). This is the first subprogram of the programmatic USD 500 million loans to develop 11 industrial corridors spanning 17 states.

India, World Bank sign \$40 million Meghalaya Health Systems Strengthening Project

The Central Government, Meghalaya Government, and the World Bank on October 28, 2021, signed a \$40 million Meghalaya Health Systems Strengthening Project (MHSSP) for improving the quality of health services and strengthening the capacity to handle future emergencies including the COVID-19 pandemic in Meghalaya.

Yes Bank and BankBazaar launched ‘FinBooster’ Credit Card

Yes Bank and BankBazaar.com together launched a Co-Branded credit card named FinBooster to measure the Creditworthiness of the customers. FinBooster is built around a credit fitness tracker. FinBooster uses the CreditStrong app Subscription (credit fitness report) which helps customers to track creditworthiness that improves the Credit score.

Paytm Money launched AI-powered ‘Voice Trading’

Paytm Money, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Paytm, has launched ‘Voice Trading’, powered by artificial intelligence (AI). It will allow users to place a trade or get information about stocks via single voice command. This voice command feature uses neural networks and natural language processing (NLP) to allow instant processing. This service has been launched in line with Paytm Money’s efforts to offer next-gen and AI-driven tech to elevate user experience.

SIDBI- Google join hands to support MSMEs

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has joined hands with Google India Pvt Ltd (GIPL) to support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The partnership will pilot a social impact lending programme, providing a financial assistance of up to Rs 1 crore at competitive interest rates to MSMEs.

It will bring a corpus of \$15 million to MSMEs, as a crisis response related to Covid-19 pandemic.

BOB Cards tie-up NPCI for RuPay credit cards

BOB Financial Solutions (BFSL), a subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch BoB Credit Cards (Easy and Premier variants) on the RuPay platform. Both Easy and Premier variants of BoB credit cards have been launched on the JCB International network and both cards support global acceptance.

ADB approves USD 1.5 bn loan to India for COVID-19 vaccine procurement

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$1.5 billion loan (approx Rs 11,185 crore) to help the Government of India purchase safe and effective vaccines against the coronavirus (COVID-19). The fund will be used to procure at least 66.7 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses for an estimated 31.7 crore people of the country.

Equitas SFB partnered with HDFC Bank to offer co-branded credit cards

Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB) partnered with HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited) Bank to launch its new co-branded credit cards. Through this partnership, Equitas SFB will utilize the HDFC bank's reach in the credit card market and also to provide its customers a better banking ecosystem.

Federal Bank and Aditya Birla Health Insurance tie-up for Bancassurance

The Federal Bank and Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Limited (ABHICL) entered into a Bancassurance Partnership. As a part of this alliance, Federal Bank will provide to its customer's innovative health insurance solutions offered by ABHICL.

Customers of Federal Bank will have facilities like Day 1 cover for asthma, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, coaching on nutrition etc.

RBI named Bandhan Bank as agency bank

The Reserve Bank of India has now appointed Bandhan Bank as an Agency Bank of the RBI to conduct government business. Bandhan Bank now joins several other private banks that have been empanelled as an Agency Bank of the RBI. Bandhan Bank will now be authorised to handle transactions related to GST, VAT and the collection of state taxes.

Niti Aayog, World Bank ready electric vehicles financing push

NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog and the World Bank (WB) are working together to facilitate a program for faster and easier financing of electric vehicles (EVs). NITI Aayog and World Bank are setting up a \$300-million 'first loss risk sharing instrument', with the State Bank of India (SBI) as its program manager.

The current rate of interest for electric two-wheelers & electric 3 Wheelers, which is in the range of 20-25 per cent is expected to be reduced to 10-12 per cent.

PhonePe launched tokenisation solution 'SafeCard'

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Digital Payment firm, PhonePe has launched a tokenization solution named 'SafeCard' for online debit and credit card transactions. Earlier in September 2021, RBI had made a device-based tokenization framework applicable to Card-on-File Tokenisation (CoFT) services as well i.e Card-on-File (CoF) means that the Credit/Debit card details are stored by merchants for ease of payment.

NPCI Bharat BillPay ties up with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd., the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India has tied up with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance to provide its marquee offering – ClickPay to the insurer's customers.

PM Modi launches two innovative customer-centric initiatives of RBI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched two innovative customer-centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). These initiatives are the RBI Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme. There will be a single point of reference for customers to file their complaints, submit the documents, track status, and provide feedback.

BharatPe launched World's 1st Merchant Shareholding Programme

BharatPe launched the World's 1st Merchant Shareholding Program (MSP) for its merchant partners. It is a \$100 million worth program, under which the company offers its merchant customers an opportunity to buy BharatPe's equity shares and become a partner. The company plans a public listing by 2024 and targets a public listing value of \$1 billion.

India, ADB sign \$60 million loan pact for Agartala City Urban Development Project

The Central Government and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a pact worth a \$61 million (around Rs 454 crore) loan to fund development projects in Agartala, Tripura. The \$61 million pact for the Agartala City Urban Development Project was signed by Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Indian government, and Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission.

ADB & WB launched 'WePOWER India Partnership Forum'

The WePOWER India Partnership Forum was held through a virtual platform on November 9, 2021, to boost the South Asia Women in Power Sector Professional Network (WePOWER) in India.

The event was organized by the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) in association with the India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF). The event saw a panel discussion on expanding job opportunities for women in India's Clean Energy Transition'.

RBI introduces Internal Ombudsman mechanism for select NBFCs

The Reserve Bank of India has announced to introduce the Internal Ombudsman mechanism for the following two types of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). These two types

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of NBFCs are Deposit-taking NBFCs (NBFCs-D) with 10 or more branches and Non-Deposit taking NBFCs (NBFCs-ND) with asset size of Rs.5,000 crore and above having public customer interface.

ICICI Bank launches online platform ‘Trade Emerge’

Private sector lender ICICI Bank has launched an online platform called ‘Trade Emerge’ for Indian exporters and importers to offer them digital banking and value-added services.

The cross border trade will become hassle-free, expeditious and convenient with Trade Emerge because an array of services are being offered in one place so companies will not require to coordinate with multiple touchpoints. The exporters and importers who are not customers of ICICI Bank can also avail the benefit of this platform.

Indian Affairs

Union Minister Amit Shah launches the “Dairy Sahakar” scheme

The Union Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah has launched the “Dairy Sahakar” scheme at Anand, Gujarat during a function organised by Amul to celebrate the 75th Foundation Year of Amul. The total outlay of the Dairy Sahakar scheme is Rs 5000 crore. The scheme will be implemented by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under the Ministry of Cooperation.

IRCTC & Truecaller partnered to reduce fraud in the railways

The Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has partnered with Truecaller India to provide passengers with greater trust in communication. This partnership aims to reduce fraud in the railways.

Under this partnership, the integrated National Railways Helpline 139 has been verified by Truecaller Business Identity solutions. This partnership aims to assure the passengers that critical communications such as booking details and PNR status are delivered only by IRCTC.

5th edition of “Ganga Utsav 2021” begins

The 5th edition of the three-day-long Ganga Utsav has been organised from November 01 to 03, 2021 in virtual format. The “Ganga Utsav 2021 – The River Festival “ will not only celebrate the glory of the river Ganga but all the rivers of the country to promote the celebration of ‘Nadi Utsav’ (River Festival).

The 2021 event has been organised under the leadership of the Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

Jitendra Singh launched India’s 1st Virtual Science Lab for children

Science and Technology Minister, Jitendra Singh has launched India’s first Virtual Science Lab for Children under CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) Jigyasa Programme. These labs will connect students with scientists across the country. To provide quality research exposure and innovative pedagogy for school students based on an online interactive medium.

Clean Ganga Mission registered in Guinness Book of World Records on Day 1 of river festival

The National Mission of Clean Ganga (NMCG) has been registered in the Guinness Book of World Records on the first day of Ganga Utsav- the River Festival 2021 for the highest number of photos of handwritten notes that were uploaded on Facebook in an hour.

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Jal Shakti Minister had posted his message on the Ganga on Facebook, after which the Guinness activity was opened for the public at large.

Centre launches first-ever DBT-Star College Mentorship Programme

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on November 8, 2021, launched the first-ever mentorship programme called the ‘DBT-Star College Mentorship Programme’ for young innovators to mark the 75th year of India’s Independence.

The Ministry of Science and Technology said that the central government is taking numerous steps for promoting scientific temper among the masses particularly youngsters by strengthening scientific research and innovation efforts in India.

Kamal Haasan to launch digital avatar in game-based metaverse

The actor, politician, producer, and director Kamal Haasan has announced his plans to become the first Indian celebrity to have his own digital avatar in a game-based metaverse.

Haasan who recently celebrated his 67th birthday on November 7, 2021, announced he will enter into digital space with the Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) collection and later launch his personal museum as well in an upcoming game-based metaverse from Fantico.

Hardeep Singh Puri unveils statue of Maharani Lakshmi Bai in Hisar college

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep S. Puri has unveiled the statue of Rani Lakshmi Bai at the Maharani Lakshmi Bai college for Women, Bhiwani Rohilla in Hisar (Haryana) through video conferencing.

Describing Rani Lakshmi Bai as a major symbol of revolt against the repression of the British Raj, the Minister said that her life has been inspiring nationalism and Indian women for generations who led the freedom revolution of India with the utmost bravery, skill and force against British rule.

IREDA launches ‘Whistle Blower’ portal

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has launched a ‘Whistle-blower Portal’ as a part of the celebration of ‘Vigilance Awareness Week 2021’. The portal was launched by Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA on November 02, 2021.

PM Modi launches Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid at COP26 Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 2, 2021, launched the Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) initiative jointly with his UK counterpart Boris Johnson at the event ‘Accelerating Clean Technology Innovation and Deployment’ at COP26 Climate Summit at Glasgow.

In May 2021, India and the UK had agreed to combine the Green Grids Initiative and the One Sun One World One Grid and jointly launch GGI-OSOWOG at the COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow in November 2021.

PM Modi Unveils Shri Adi Shankaracharya Samadhi and Statue in Kedarnath

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kedarnath in Uttarakhand on November 05, 2021, to inaugurate key infrastructure projects related to the redevelopment of Kedarnath.

PM inaugurated the reconstructed Shri Adi Shankaracharya Samadhi (final resting place) at the premises of the Kedarnath Temple in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand and unveiled the statue of Shri Adi Shankaracharya at the Samadhi. The Samadhi was damaged in the 2013 Kedarnath flood.

India's first National Yogasana Sports Championships setup in Bhubaneswar

India's first Physical National Yogasana Championships has been organised in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from November 11-13, 2021. The National Yogasana Sports Championships 2021-22 has been organised by the National Yogasana Sports Federation (NYSF) in association with the Odisha state.

India's 1st grass conservatory inaugurated in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand

India's first 'grass conservatory' or 'germplasm conservation centre' spread over an area of 2 acres was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Almora district of Uttarakhand.

This conservatory is funded under the Central Government's CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme and is developed by the research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department. To create awareness about the importance of grass species, promote their conservation, and facilitate research in the field.

Cabinet Affairs

Draft Mediation Bill

The Indian government has released a draft mediation bill for public comment, which aims to protect petitioners' rights to approach competent adjudicatory forums. Pre-litigation mediation is included in the Draft Mediation Bill.

The bill protects litigants' rights to seek urgent remedy from competent adjudicatory forums and courts. The bill states that the successful outcome of mediation is now legally enforceable in the form of a Mediation Settlement Agreement.

Punjab Assembly adopts resolution against Farm laws

Punjab Assembly adopted a resolution against Centre's three contentious farm laws on November 11, 2021. This resolution was passed after claiming that farm laws had unlawfully ventured into state government's domain.

This is the second resolution adopted by Vidhan Sabha against three agriculture laws. First resolution was passed in October 2020.

Union Cabinet approves scheme to provide 4G mobile services in over 7,000 villages across 5 states

The Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur announced on November 17, 2021, that the Union Cabinet has decided to provide 4G mobile services in over 7,000 villages across Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Odisha.

The Union Minister Anurag Thakur further added that the expenditure on the project is estimated to be Rs. 6,466 crores. With the latest approval by the Union Cabinet, 4G mobile services will be provided and people will also be able to utilize the benefits of e-governance.

Centre To Roll Back 3 Farm Laws

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that his government will repeal the three contentious agricultural laws and requested protesting farmers to go back to their fields and homes. The announcement came on the Gurupurab/Prakash Utsav festival, when Sikhism founder Guru Nanak's birthday is celebrated in the country.

The decision comes just ahead of state polls in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh where the farm protests were predicted to dent the BJP's electoral fortunes. Last year, in September, President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent for the three bills passed by the Parliament.

Draft Food Safety & Standards (Genetically Modified or Engineered Foods) Regulations, 2021

"Draft Food Safety and Standards (Genetically Modified or Engineered Foods) Regulations, 2021" was issued by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on November 15,

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2021. It will be applicable to Food or Processed food comprising of Genetically Modified ingredients produced from but not containing GMOs, LMOs or GEOs.

Rajasthan Cabinet Reshuffle 2021

A total of 15 ministers were sworn into the Rajasthan Cabinet on November 21, 2021, taking the total strength of Rajasthan Council of Ministers to the maximum permissible limit of 30 following the much-awaited cabinet reshuffle.

Out of the 15 new Ministers, 11 were inducted as Cabinet Ministers and four as Ministers of State. The ministers were administered the oath of office by Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra at the Raj Bhavan.

Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021

The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021 is expected to be taken up for final consideration and passing during the winter session of the parliament, which is scheduled to start from November 29, 2021.

The bill seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India, with some exceptions.

Cabinet approves continuation of ACROSS scheme

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 24, 2021, approved for continuing the umbrella scheme 'Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)' of the Ministry of Earth Sciences during 2021-26 at a cost of Rs 2,135 crores.

The ACROSS scheme comprises eight sub-schemes which are being implemented by the units of the Earth Sciences Ministry namely the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).

State related Affairs

Punjab to begin Census of Indus River Dolphin

The state of Punjab is set to start the Census of one of the world's most threatened cetaceans, Indus River dolphin. Indus River dolphin is scientifically called as *Platanista gangetica minor*. It is a freshwater dolphin, found in river Beas.

National Tribal Dance Festival 2021 held in Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh has observed the annual 2nd National Tribal Dance Festival 2021 at Raipur's Science College ground as a part of the tourism development plan of the state.

It was inaugurated by the Chief Minister (CM) of Jharkhand Hemant Soren and CM of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel. This year's event was clubbed with Chhattisgarh's Rajyotsava (state foundation day- November 1, 2021).

Haryana Govt launched 'Uttam Beej portal'

Chief Minister (CM) of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar has launched the 'Uttam Beej portal' which will benefit the farmers of Haryana by providing quality seeds with transparency.

The portal will provide transparency in the seed production programme arranged by both the Government and private seed producing agencies and ensure the quality of certified seeds.

MP to introduce new Prevention of Loss of Public and Private Property and Recovery of Damages Act

Madhya Pradesh government is planning to introduce new 'Prevention of Loss of Public and Private Property and Recovery of Damages Act'. This was announced by Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on November 3, 2021.

The Minister informed that under the act, a claim tribunal will be formed for recovery of damages from those who pelt stones and damage government and private properties. The tribunal will be formed as per the location of the incident.

Meghalaya approves creation of new district named Eastern West Khasi Hills District

The Meghalaya Cabinet has approved the proposal of the creation of a new district called Eastern West Khasi Hills district. The new district has been formed by upgrading the Mairang civil sub-division. Mairang will now be a sub-division under the West Khasi Hills district.

The new district will be inaugurated on November 10, 2021 by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma. This will increase the total number of districts in the state to 12.

Delhi govt launched 'Shramik Mitra' Scheme for Construction Workers

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The Government of Delhi launched the 'Shramik Mitra' scheme for construction workers. Under the scheme, 800 'Shramik Mitras' will reach out to construction workers, and spread awareness on the government schemes.

Delhi Govt has also increased the Dearness allowance for Unskilled, Semi-skilled workers, to increase their salary by around 1%. Shramik Mitras will inform construction workers registered by the Construction Board at the ward level about assistance schemes of the government.

Punjab became 1st Indian state to approve Tissue Culture-Based Seed Potato Rules

The Punjab Cabinet headed by chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi approved the 'Punjab Tissue Culture Based Seed Potato Rules-2021' to develop Punjab as a standard potato seed centre.

With this decision, Punjab has become the first Indian state to have the facility of tissue culture-based certification, which will develop the Jalandhar-Kapurthala belt of Punjab as the export hub of potatoes. The Cabinet also approved to introduce the 'Punjab Horticulture Nursery Bill-2021' by amending 'Punjab Fruit Nursery Act-1961'.

Odisha govt launches road safety initiative 'Rakshak'

The state government of Odisha has launched a first of its kind road safety initiative named Rakshak, to train first responders of road accidents. Under the program, 300 master trainers will train 30,000 local people, staying or working at the eateries and different business establishments located near accident-prone spots.

These 30,000 volunteers will be trained as First Responders to road accidents. They will be equipped to administer first aid and pre-hospital trauma care to accident victims within the golden hour.

Norovirus confirmed in Wayanad, Kerala

First case of Norovirus was confirmed in Wayanad district of Kerala. Norovirus is an animal-borne disease. It is transmitted through contaminated water and food.

Following the confirmation of case, Health Minister Veena George issued guidelines and urged people to be vigilant for the same. People were directed to intensify preventive activities and to spread awareness regarding the disease.

Maharashtra signed an MoU with RMI for technical support in EV Policy

Maharashtra government has signed an MoU with the United States-based Non-Profit Organisation, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), to provide technical support for Maharashtra's Electric Vehicle (EV) policy.

The MoU was signed at Glasgow, United Kingdom, at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP26). Maharashtra state EV policy aims to have a 10 per cent share of EV vehicles of total registrations in India by 2025.

44th Wangala festival begins in Meghalaya

Meghalaya state observed the 44th edition of ‘Wangala’, the festival of 100 Drums Festival begins. It is a post-harvest festival of the Garos tribe which is being held every year to honour ‘Saljong’, the Sun God of Garos, which also marks the end of the harvest season.

Celebrated since 1976, it’s the most important festival of the Garo tribe and attracts a lot of tourists. During the Wangala, tribals offer sacrifices to please their deity Saljong, the Sun God.

Bhopal’s Habibganj Railway Station renamed as Rani Kamlapati Station

The Habibganj railway station in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh has been renamed after 18th-century Gond Queen of Bhopal, Rani Kamlapati. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the revamped Rani Kamlapati railway station on November 15, during his visit to Bhopal.

The railway station has been redeveloped with modern airport-like amenities at a cost of Rs 450 crore under Public Private Partnership mode in three years. Rani Kamlapati was the last Hindu queen of Bhopal and pride of the Gond community.

Arunachal’s approved “Kaiser-i-Hind” as state butterfly

State Cabinet of Arunachal Pradesh, headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, approved “Kaiser-i-Hind” as the state butterfly. Kaiser-i-Hind is scientifically known as *Teinopalpus imperialis*. In literal terms, it means Emperor of India. The butterfly is having a wingspan of 90-120 mm. It is found across six States along Eastern Himalayas at elevations from 6,000-10,000 feet in a well-wooded terrain.

Arunachal Pradesh Govt adopted ‘Pakke Declaration’ on climate change

The government of Arunachal Pradesh approved the ‘Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change Resilient and Responsive Arunachal Pradesh’, which aims to promote “climate-resilient development” in the state. The announcement is the first of its kind by any state government in the country.

India’s first fisheries business incubator launched in Gurugram

The first-of-its-kind, dedicated fisheries business incubator has been inaugurated in Gurugram of Haryana to nurture fisheries start-ups under real market-led conditions. The incubator is known as LINAC- NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre (LIFIC). It was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala.

Piyush Goyal launched India’s 1st Digital Food Museum in Tamil Nadu

Union Minister, Piyush Goyal virtually launched India’s first Digital Food Museum in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. It is a 1,860-sqft museum co-developed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museums, Bengaluru (Karnataka) with an estimated outlay of Rs 1.1 crore.

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The museum is the first one-of-its-kind effort to depict India's food story from the beginning to India becoming the largest food grain exporter in the country.

PM Modi launched 'Ration Aapke Gram' scheme & 'Sickle Cell Mission' in MP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a series of Tribal Welfare programs on his visit to Madhya Pradesh. PM Modi launched a welfare scheme named 'Ration Aapke Gram' scheme & 'Sickle Cell Mission' of Madhya Pradesh. He also laid the foundation stone for the construction of 50 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools across India.

Bhubaneswar receives "Best Marine District Award"

On the occasion of World Fisheries Day on November 21, 2021, Balasore district of Bhubaneswar received India's "Best Marine District" award.

Award was handed over by Union minister for fisheries, animal husbandry & dairying, Parshottam Rupala to director of fisheries of Odisha government, Smruti Ranjan Pradhan.

Andhra Pradesh Bags Best Marine State Award

Andhra Pradesh has been named the best marine state in the country by the Department of Fisheries. The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying awarded best performing States for 2021-22 on 21 November 2021 on the occasion of the 'World Fisheries Day, to recognise their accomplishments in the field and their contribution to the growth of the sector.

Odisha celebrated 'Boita Bandana' Festival on Karthika Purnima

On Karthika Purnima, which is also known as Boita Bandana is celebrated at various water bodies of Odisha.

The festival is the maritime tradition that is celebrated as a testament to the maritime trade history of Kalinga, traders and mariners known as sadhabas travelled on boitas (boats) to trade with distant island nations that share borders with the Bay of Bengal like Indonesia, Java, Sumatra and Bali.

International Affairs

‘Vax’ named Oxford English Dictionary’s Word of the Year 2021

‘Vax’ has been chosen as the word of the year by the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) in 2021. Vax is derived from the Latin word Vacca, which means cow.

Vax is used as a short form for vaccines and means a substance put into a person’s body to prevent them from getting a disease. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, words related to vaccines saw a surge in 2021, including terms like double-vaxxed, unvaxxed and anti-vaxxer.

Yahoo pulls out of China

Yahoo Inc. has pulled out of China on November 2, 2021 because of an increasingly challenging business and legal environment. Yahoo has stopped its services in China from November 1, 2021. Yahoo took this decision in line with its commitment for rights of users and a free & open internet.

New Zealand’s annual Bird of The Year award

An independent conservation organisation in New Zealand, Forest & Bird, organised its annual Bird of The Year Award, recently.

In the year 2021, the annual bird of the year award was won by Pekapeka-tou-roa, which is a native bat species of New Zealand.

Britain approves worlds first oral pill to treat Covid-19

Britain’s health regulators have approved the world’s first pill to treat cases of symptomatic COVID-19.

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said, the antiviral molnupiravir has been found to be safe and effective at reducing the risk of hospitalisation and death in people with mild to moderate COVID-19, who are at increased risk of developing the disease.

Astronaut Wang Yaping becomes first Chinese woman to walk in space

Astronaut Wang Yaping became the first Chinese woman to walk in space on November 7, 2021, during her first extravehicular operation on the Shenzhou-13 mission.

41-years-old Wang as a crewmember of China’s Shenzhou-13 mission moved out of the space station core module called Tianhe and carried out extravehicular activities for over 6.5 hours along with her colleague Zhai Zhigang. Wang marked the first spacewalk of a woman astronaut in China’s space history.

US becomes 101st member country of International Solar Alliance

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The United States has become the 101st member country of the International Solar Alliance. US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry formally signed the ISA framework agreement on November 10, 2021 during the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow.

El Salvador Plans to Build World's First 'Bitcoin City'

El Salvador President Nayib Bukele has announced that the country is planning to build the world's first "Bitcoin City". The new city is planned to be developed in the eastern region of La Union and will be initially funded by bitcoin-backed bonds.

It would get geothermal power from a volcano. Bitcoin City will not levy any taxes except for value-added tax (VAT). One half of this VAT levied will be used to fund the bonds issued to build the city and the next half would be used to pay for services such as garbage collection.

2025 Asian Youth Para Games will be hosted by Tashkent, Uzbekistan

The 5th edition of the Asian Youth Para Games 2025 will be hosted by Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, and the approval given by the Asian Paralympic Committee's (APC) Executive Board. For the first time, 'Asian Youth Games 2025' and 'Asian Youth Para Games 2025' will be hosted in the same city & in the same venues.

US, Australia and UK signed MoU in Nuclear Submarine Alliance

Australia officially became a part of the new Nuclear Powered Submarine defence alliance with the United Kingdom and the United States after signing a deal with the countries in Canberra, Australia. Under the AUKUS deal, Australia will be provided with 8 nuclear-powered submarines capable of stealthy and long-range missions. It is the first agreement on technology signed by the three countries after the formation of the defence alliance AUKUS (Australia-UK-US).

Collins Dictionary names 'NFT' as the Word of the Year 2021

Collins Dictionary has named the term 'NFT' as the Word of the Year 2021. NFT is the acronym for "non-fungible token. As per Collins Dictionary, NFT is defined as "a unique digital certificate, registered in a blockchain, that is used to record the ownership of an asset such as an artwork or a collectible." Collins English Dictionary is published by HarperCollins in Glasgow.

Foreign Relation

India, Gambia sign two agreements for deepening bilateral relations

The Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan visited the Republic of Gambia. The minister held meetings with its President Adam Barrow and other officials and also discussed bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

As per the press statement by the Ministry of External Affairs, the Minister of State was on a visit to the West African country from November 1 to November 3, 2021.

SpaceX sets up subsidiary in India

World's richest person Elon Musk-owned SpaceX has incorporated its wholly-owned subsidiary in India to start local broadband operations. SpaceX's satellite broadband arm Starlink aims to start broadband services in India from December 2022, with 2 lakh active terminals subject to permission from the government.

Annapurna idol stolen from UP back from Canada after 100 years

An idol of Goddess Annapurna that was stolen from Varanasi about 100 years ago and later found in Canada recently is all set to be back at its rightful place and will be gracing the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi. It is 17 cm in height, 9 cm in breadth and 4 cm in thickness.

India to finalise \$3 billion predator drone deal with US by Current Fiscal

India is all set to seal a long-conceived proposal to procure 30 multi-mission armed Predator Drones from the United States for the three defence services of the country. The procurement of the drones will be at an estimated cost of over USD 3 billion (around Rs. 22,000 crores).

Ranks & Indices

Microsoft surpasses Apple to become world's most valuable company

Microsoft Corp. has surpassed Apple Inc. to become the world's most valuable publicly-traded company by market capitalisation. At market close on October 29, 2021, Apple stood at about \$2.46 trillion while Microsoft reached nearly \$2.49 trillion. Apple had held the top position for more than a year.

Public Affairs Index 2021: Kerala topped in governance performance

According to the 6th edition of the Public Affairs Index (PAI 2021) report by the Public Affairs Centre (PAC), a Bengaluru- based non-profit think tank, the top three slots have been taken by Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana among 18 large states. PAI 2021 highlights the state government's quality governance and especially the state's government involvement over the curb of Covid-19.

Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021

Hurun India and EdelGive have jointly released the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021. The list was topped by Azim Premji, the founder chairman of Wipro, with a donation of Rs 9,713 crore during fiscal 2020-21 which is around Rs 27 crore a day.

HCL's Shiv Nadar once again retained the second spot on the list with an annual donation of Rs 1,263 crore, marking a 59 per cent rise. Mukesh Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Industries, and his family occupied the third spot on the philanthropy list with an annual donation of Rs 577 crore.

National Logistics Index – LEADS 2021: Gujarat retains top spot, UP jumps 7 positions

Gujarat ranked 1st among 21 states on the national logistics index 2021 chart for its 'well-developed infrastructure and services driven by a responsive government'.

The logistics index chart released on November 8, 2021, in the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2021 report by commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal assessed the logistics efficiency of states in 2021. Gujarat was ranked number one in the LEADS 2019 index as well.

There was no ranking in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On the top ten states in LEADS 2021 report, Gujarat is followed by Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. Uttar Pradesh.

Nykaa's Falguni Nayar becomes India's richest self-made woman billionaire

Falguni Nayar, the CEO and founder of beauty and fashion eCommerce platform Nykaa, has become the richest self-made woman in India. She founded Nykaa in the year 2012. She holds 53.5% stake in Nykaa and has a net worth of USD 7.48 billion.

China overtakes US to take top spot in list of richest countries, global wealth triples over last two decades

The Global wealth has tripled over the last two decades with China overtaking the United States for the top spot worldwide. The results are one of the takeaways from a new report by the research arm of the consultants McKinsey & Co. that has examined the national balance sheets of the ten countries representing more than 60% of the world income.

Unmukt Chand becomes the 1st Indian male to sign up for BBL

Unmukt Chand has become the first Indian male cricketer to sign up for the Big Bash League as he is set to feature in the Melbourne Renegades side in the upcoming edition.

The 28-year-old, who led India to the Under-19 World Cup title in 2012, has represented India A, apart from featuring in teams like Delhi Daredevils, Mumbai Indians, and Rajasthan Royals in the IPL. He announced his retirement from Indian cricket in August this year stating that he would explore 'better opportunities from around the world'.

WB Report: India became World's Largest Recipient of Remittances

According to the latest report by the World Bank titled 'World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide Database', India became the world's largest recipient of remittances by receiving USD 87 billion in 2021.

The United States (US) was its biggest source, accounting for over 20% of these funds. India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt. In India, remittances are projected to grow 3% in 2022 to USD 89.6 billion.

Climate Change Performance Index: India ranked 10th

India has been placed at 10th spot in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022 released by Germanwatch on the side-lines of the COP26. In 2020 also India was at 10th position. India has retained its position as the top 10 best-performing countries with higher climate performance for the third year in a row.

IQAir Air Quality Index: Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai among world's top 10 polluted cities

According to the data from air quality and pollution city tracking service from IQAir, a Switzerland-based climate group, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai are among the top ten most polluted cities of the world.

Delhi topped the list with AQI at 556, Kolkata and Mumbai recorded an AQI of 177 and 169, respectively, at 4th and 6th position. The cities with the worst AQI indices also include Lahore, in Pakistan, and Chengdu, in China.

Andhra Tops IPF Smart Policing Index 2021

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Andhra Pradesh Police has topped the 'IPF Smart Policing' Index 2021, among 29 states and Union Territories, released by the Indian Police Foundation (IPF). Andhra Pradesh has secured the first rank with an overall score of 8.11 out of 10.

Telangana Police is in the second position with 8.10 points while Assam Police has secured the third position with an overall rating of 7.89. With a score of 5.81, Uttar Pradesh is ranked at 28th position and Bihar has occupied the last position with 5.74 points.

SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22: Shimla tops the index; Check top 10 Urban areas

NITI Aayog launched the inaugural Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Urban Index & Dashboard (2021-22) on November 23, 2021. The index and dashboard have been launched with the collaboration of NITI Aayog- GIZ and BMZ which focuses on driving the SDG localization in the Indian cities, under the umbrella of Indo-German Development Cooperation.

Financial Stability Board: JP Morgan named world's most systemic bank

JPMorgan Chase has once again been named the world's most important bank to the health of the wider financial system, according to the latest annual ranking of top lenders by global regulators. The Financial Stability Board (FSB), made up of regulators from G20 countries, published its latest table of the world's 30 most systemic banks.

Business News

TCS becomes Jaguar's Formula E title partner

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has joined British racing team Jaguar Racing as the title partner, ahead of the 2021/22 ABB FIA Formula E World Championship.

The team will be known as Jaguar TCS Racing. TCS and Jaguar will create a dynamic platform that will drive research and innovation while steering towards advanced concepts and electric vehicle (EV) technologies.

IOCL and NTPC tied up to collaborate in Renewable Energy

National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) signed an MoU with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to collaborate in the field of Renewable Energy and mutually explore opportunities for the supply of low carbon/RE RTC (round the clock) captive power.

This is a first-of-its-kind novel initiative by two leading national energy majors of India, to support the country's commitment to achieving renewable energy targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

SBI signed an MoU with Pondicherry Co-op Milk Producers' Union Ltd

The State bank of India (SBI) has signed an MoU with Pondicherry Co-op. Milk Producers' Union Ltd (PONLAIT) for financing individual dairy farmers up to Rs 3 Lakh.

The Loan will be made available through YONO application of the SBI Bank. SBI has introduced a technology product, named 'SAFAL- Simple And Fast Agriculture Loan' for financing individual Dairy farmers, who are supplying milk to commercial dairies on a regular basis.

Defence News

Indian Navy stealth frigate Tushil launched in Russia

The seventh Indian Navy frigate of the P1135.6 class was launched at the Yantar Shipyard at Kaliningrad in Russia. The ship has been formally named as Tushil, a Sanskrit word that means protector shield. Tushil will be commissioned into the Indian Navy in mid-2023 followed by its sister ship by the end of 2023.

Defence Acquisition Council approves proposals worth Rs. 7,695 crores for armed forces under 'Make in India'

The Defence Acquisition Council on November 2, 2021, approved the proposals worth Rs. 7,695 crores for the Armed Forces Modernisation under 'Make in India'. The Council was headed by the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

As per the press release by the Defence Ministry, the defence acquisition council (DAC), in its meeting of November 2, 2021, held under the Chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals for modernization and operational needs of the Armed Forces amounting to Rs. 7,695 crores.

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Indian Navy received 4th Scorpene Submarine 'Vela'

4th Scorpene submarine of the Project-75, Yard 11878 was delivered to the Indian Navy which will be commissioned as INS (Indian Naval Ship) Vela.

Project-75 includes the construction of six submarines of Scorpene design by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai (Maharashtra) in collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France. Currently, three submarines under Project-75 are functional with the Indian Navy viz. INS Karanj, INS Kalvari, and INS Khanderi.

TVS Motor became 1st Indian 2-wheeler maker to join UN Global Compact

TVS Motor Company, the flagship company of TVS Group, has joined the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative.

TVS Motor has become the 1st Indian two-wheeler and three-wheeler manufacturer to join the UNGC. TVS Motor will also engage in collaborative projects which will advance the development goals of the UN, particularly the Sustainable development goals (SDG).

6th India-France bilateral Army exercise EX SHAKTI 2021 begins

The Navies of India and France will carry out the 6th edition of the biennial training exercise “EX SHAKTI 2021” from November 15 to 26, 2021 in Frejus, France. The Indian Army will be represented by the Gorkha Rifles Infantry Battalion and France Army will be represented by troops of the 21st Marine Infantry Regiment of the 6th Light Armoured Brigade.

India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX–21 begins

The 3rd edition of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise named SITMEX–21 is being held from 15 to 16 Nov 21 in the Andaman Sea. The Navies of the India, Singapore and Thailand will participate in the event. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk is participating in the 3rd edition from India. It is an indigenously built Missile Corvette.

INS Visakhapatnam commissioned into Indian Navy

INS Visakhapatnam, a P15B stealth guided-missile destroyer has been commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. This is the first of the four ‘Visakhapatnam’ class destroyers.

It has been designed by the Indian Navy’s in-house organization Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai. INS Visakhapatnam measures 163m in length, 17m in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes. It was commissioned in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh.

Defence Acquisition Council approves AK-203 deal with Russia

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has granted permission for mass production of AK-203 rifles, providing fire power to the standard weapon profile of armed forces. DAC has also approved an independent satellite for Indian Air Force (IAF).

India, Maldives & Sri Lanka conducted biennial trilateral exercise ‘Dosti’

The 5-day long, 15th edition of the Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka biennial Trilateral Exercise ‘Dosti’ was conducted in the Maldives from 20-24 November 2021 as part of regional security formation for a peaceful and stable Indian Ocean Region. The Exercise is conducted biennially among the Coast Guards of the 3 countries. This year marks the 30th year since the initiation of the exercise.

37th India-Indonesia CORPAT exercise held in Indian Ocean

The 37th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) is being held in the Indian Ocean region from 23-24 November 2021. CORPAT is held twice in a year to ensure safety and security. It was conducted for the first time in 2002.

Indigenously built Indian Naval Ship (INS) Khanjar and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft is participating in the CORPAT. Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Sultan Thaha Syaifuddin, (376) is participating from Indonesia.

Science & Technology

Elon Musk's SpaceX establishes subsidiary in India, plans to apply for license

SpaceX, owned by the world's richest person Elon Musk, on November 1, 2021, established its wholly-owned subsidiary in India in order to start local broadband operations.

The satellite broadband arm of SpaceX, Starlink aims to start the broadband services in India from December 2022, with 2 lakh active terminals subject to permission from the Government of India.

WHO approves Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for emergency use

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin has got WHO approval as the technical advisory team has recommended the India-made vaccine for emergency use listing for 18 years and above. This marks a major victory for India's journey in vaccination against Covid-19.

Covaxin is a vaccine, completely 'made in India', by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech and the Indian Council of Medical Research. WHO has so far approved Covid-19 vaccines of Pfizer-BioNTech, AstraZeneca-SK Bio/Serum Institute of India, Johnson & Johnson – Janssen, Moderna, and Sinopharm for emergency use.

China launched world's 1st Earth Science Satellite named "Guangmu"

China has launched the world's first Earth-science satellite, Guangmu or SDGSAT-1 into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern Shanxi Province. The satellite was launched by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and developed by the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS).

SpaceX launches Indian-origin astronaut Raja Chari-led Crew 3 mission

US Space agency NASA and the Elon Musk-owned private rocket company SpaceX have launched the "Crew 3" mission on November 10, 2021. The "Crew 3" mission consists of Indian-origin NASA astronaut Raja Chari as its mission commander.

The other three astronauts are NASA's Tom Marshburn (pilot); and Kayla Barron (mission specialist); as well as ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Matthias Maurer (mission specialist).

Gaofen-11 03- China launches a new satellite

China launched a new satellite called "Gaofen-11 03" from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre. This satellite is also called as Chang Zheng 4B, CZ-4B and LM-4B. It is an expendable orbital Launch vehicle of China. The satellite was Launched from Launch Complex 1 of Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center. It is a 3-stage rocket, which is used to place satellites into low Earth orbit as well as sun-synchronous orbits.

Russia successfully tests fired Hypersonic Cruise Missile 'Zircon'

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Russian Navy successfully test-fired the 'Zircon' Hypersonic Cruise Missile from Frigate – Admiral Gorshkov warship, which rightly hit the test target placed in the Russian Arctic waters.

Russia destroyed its own satellite in low-earth orbit using an Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile named 'Nudol', which led to the formation of a cloud of space debris that could potentially destroy other orbiting satellites & the International Space Station (ISS).

India launches 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica

India successfully launched the 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica on November 15, 2021. The first batch of its contingents comprising of 23 scientists and support staff has reached the Indian Antarctic station Maitri. Four more batches will be landing in Antarctica by mid-January 2022. The Indian Antarctic program began in 1981 and has completed 40 scientific expeditions.

NASA launches world's first DART Mission

The US space agency NASA has launched a first-of-its-kind mission named DART to change the path of an asteroid by intentionally crashing a spacecraft into it. DART stands for Double Asteroid Redirection Test. The \$325 million DART mission was launched into orbit on November 24, 2021, from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

Book News

A book on Rani Laxmibai's lawyer John Lang authored by Amit Ranjan

Amit Ranjan authored a book titled “John Lang: Wanderer of Hindoostan, Slanderer of Hindoostanee, Lawyer for the Ranee”.

The book is about John Lang's life, his exploits, and literary works. He was an Australian journalist and lawyer who settled in India in the 19th century. He fought many cases against the British and also represented Rani Laxmibai in her legal battle against the annexation of her kingdom of Jhansi by the East India Company (EIC).

“The Sage with Two Horns: Unusual Tales from Mythology” authored by Sudha Murty

The chairperson of the Infosys Foundation and a renowned author, Sudha Murty has published her new book titled “The Sage with Two Horns: Unusual Tales from Mythology”, the 5th and last book of the “Unusual Tales from Mythology” series.

The series features the stories of kings and queens, gods and goddesses, sages, and extraordinary men and women of wisdom.

“Nehru: The Debates that Defined India” by Tripurdaman Singh and Adeel Hussain

A book titled “Nehru: The Debates that Defined India” is co-authored by Tripurdaman Singh and Adeel Hussain. A new book serves as a revisionist exploration of India's first and longest-serving prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and investigates the overlooked role of his contemporaries and opponents in shaping his political vision.

A new book “Sunrise over Ayodhya – Nationhood in our Times” by Salman Khurshid

Former union minister and Congress leader Salman Khurshid, who recently launched his book on the Ayodhya verdict named “Sunrise over Ayodhya – Nationhood in our Times”. Khurshid said, “People used to think that it will take 100 years for the verdict to come. After the verdict, people started giving opinions perhaps without reading it or understanding that what, why or how did Supreme Court give the judgement.”

A new book ‘Finding A Straight Line Between Twists and Turns’ by Aseem Chawla

Aseem Chawla, one of India's leading tax lawyers and well-known international tax and policy expert released his new book “Finding A Straight Line Between Twists and Turns – An Imperfect, Yet Honest Reflections on the Indian Tax Landscape” published by Matrix Publishers. The book provides an in-depth analysis of both national and international of the Indian tax landscape over a decade.

A book titled “Unshackling India” by Ajay Chhibber and Salman Anees Soz

A book titled “Unshackling India: Hard Truths and Clear Choices for Economic Revival” authored by Ajay Chhibber and Salman Anees Soz. A new book examines whether India can use the next 25 years, when it will reach the hundredth year of independence, to not only

restructure its economy but rejuvenate its democratic energy and unshackle its potential to become a genuinely developed economy by 2047.

Dr Ajay Kumar releases a book titled ‘FORCE IN STATECRAFT’

India’s Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar has released a book titled ‘FORCE IN STATECRAFT’ in New Delhi. The book is a compilation of essays on topics such as counter-insurgency operations, conflict in the North East, airpower, nuclear posture etc. contributed by all stalwarts of the Armed Forces, who have vast operational experience and understanding of several important cornerstones of forces and its application.

Smriti Irani authored her first Novel ‘Lal Salaam: A Novel’

Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani is set to release her first novel titled “Lal Salaam: A Novel” in November 2021. The novel is inspired by the killings of 76 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel during the Maoist attack in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh in April 2010. This book is a tribute to the people who have given their lifetime service to the nation.

Abhijit Banerjee authored a book titled “Cooking to Save your Life”

Indian-born American economist & Nobel laureate, Abhijit Banerjee has authored a new book (cookbook) titled “Cooking to Save your Life”. The book illustrated by France based illustrator Cheyenne Oliver is published by Juggernaut Books. He won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 2019 along with Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.

A book titled “Contested Lands: India, China and the Boundary Dispute” by Maroof Raza

Former Army Officer Maroof Raza has authored a new book titled “Contested Lands: India, China, and the Boundary Dispute”. The book features the history of India’s boundary making with Tibet and China and analyses the current India-China boundary contestation stemming from interpretations of history in the post-colonial period.

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Sports News

Name	Tournament Name	Extra Information
J&K team	World Deaf Judo Championship	The championship was held at Versailles, France. The championship is organised by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf.
GM P Iniyan	Rujna Zora chess tournament	P Iniyan is the 16th Indian Grand Master from Erode, Tamil Nadu. His current International Chess Federation (FIDE) ratings is 2556.
Akash Kumar	Bronze - World Boxing Championships	Akash will receive \$25,000 as prize money and a belt for his accomplishment. He suffered a 0-5 loss against Kazakhstan's Makhmud Sabyrkhan in the 54-kg category.
Rashid Khan	becomes youngest bowler to take 400 T20 wickets	Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan became the youngest bowler to take 400 T20 wickets during his team's crucial Super 12 encounter against New Zealand in Dubai.
Manu Bhaker and Javad Foroughi	ISSF President's Cup – Gold	India's woman pistol star Manu Bhaker and Iranian Olympic champion Javad Foroughi has won the 10m air pistol mixed team gold at the inaugural ISSF President's Cup at the Wroclaw in Poland.
Max Verstappen	2021 Mexico City Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the 2021 Mexico City Grand Prix held at the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez in Mexico City. Seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) stood second while Sergio Perez (Mexico-Red Bull) came third.
Sankalp Gupta	71st Indian Grandmaster	Sankalp Gupta has become India's 71st Grandmaster by scoring 6.5 points and finishing second in the GM Ask 3 round-robin event in Arandjelovac, Serbia. The Maharashtra player also touched the 2500 Elo rating mark during the tournament.
Tajamul Islam	Gold Medal In World Kickboxing Championship	13-year-old Tajamul Islam is the first Kashmiri girl to have represented India and won the

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		gold medal in the under-14 age category in World Kickboxing Championship held at Cairo in Egypt.
Novak Djokovic	37th Masters Title at Paris 2021	In the finals, Djokovic, with an impressive 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 defeating Daniil Medvedev. With this win, Djokovic will remain at the ATP World Number 1 rank, for the record 7th consecutive year.
Mitrabha Guha	India's 72nd Grandmaster	International Master (IM) Mitrabha Guha from Kolkata, West Bengal has become the 72nd Grandmaster of India after securing his 3rd and final Grandmaster (GM) norm at GM Third Saturday Mix 220, Novi Sad, Serbia.
Australia	T20 World Cup title	Australia won their maiden T20 World Cup title as they defeated New Zealand in the final by 8 wickets.
Lewis Hamilton	2021 F1 Brazilian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen is leading the World Drivers' Standings with 312.5 points, 19 points ahead of Lewis Hamilton (318.5).
Garbine Muguruza	2021 WTA Finals	In tennis, Garbine Muguruza of Spain beat Anett Kontaveit of Estonia, 6-3, 7-5 in the final to claim her first WTA Final title.
Alexander Zverev	Vienna Tennis Open 2021	At present, Alexander Zverev is ranked 3rd in the ATP World Ranking.
Lewis Hamilton	2021 F1 Qatar Grand Prix	With this win, Lewis Hamilton has become the first driver to have won at 30 different circuits in Formula 1.
Kento Momota and An Seyoung	2021 Indonesia Masters Tournament	In women's single, An Seyoung of South Korea defeated top-seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan 21-17, 21-19 to win the title.
Alexander Zverev	ATP Finals title	In Tennis, Alexander Zverev of Germany beat World No.2 Daniil Medvedev of Russia, 6-4, 6-4, in the men's singles finals to clinch the 2021 ATP Finals title, held at Turin in Italy.

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Obituary News

Name	Associated field
Alan Davidson	Australian legend - Cricket
Koneru Ramakrishna Rao	Well-known educationist, teacher, and philosopher
FW de Klerk	Nobel Laureate and former South African President
Anand Shankar Pandya	Former Vice President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP)
Mannu Bhandari	Hindi author
Babasaheb Purandare	Padma Vibhushan awardee historian and author
Wilbur Smith	World Famous Legendary Author
Novy Kapadia	Veteran sports commentator and football pundit

Important Days and Themes

Day	Date	Theme
World Vegan Day	November 01	
International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists	November 02	
World Tsunami Awareness Day	November 05	
National Cancer Awareness Day	November 07	
International Day of Radiology	November 08	Active care for the patient
World Urbanism Day	November 08	
International Day Of Radiology	November 08	
National Legal Services Day	November 09	
World Science Day	November 10	Building Climate-Ready Communities
National Education Day	November 11	
World Pneumonia Day	November 12	
Public Service Broadcasting Day	November 12	
World Antimicrobial Awareness Week	November 18 - 24	
World Diabetes Day	November 14	Access to Diabetes Care
Children's Day	November 14	
National Press Day	November 16	
International Day for Tolerance	November 16	
World COPD Day	November 17	Healthy Lungs – Never More Important
National Epilepsy Day	November 17	
World Philosophy Day	November 18	
Naturopathy Day	November 18	
National Newborn Week	November 15 -21	

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World Antimicrobial Awareness Week	November 18 -24	
World Toilet Day	November 19	valuing toilets
World Children’s Day	November 20	A Better Future for Every Child
World Fisheries Day	November 21	
World Television Day	November 21	
World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims	November 21	ACT for LOW SPEEDS /ACT for LOW-SPEED STREETS”
International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	November 25	Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!”.
National Organ Donation Day	November 26	
Indian Constitution Day	November 26	