

Eazyprep

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

COMPILATION

AUGUST 2021

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12th August

1. Defense

India & Saudi Arabia to conduct first ever naval exercise 'AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2021'

The joint naval exercise will showcase the reflection of growing military cooperation between the two nations.

India's guided-missile destroyer INS Kochi is to participate in the exercise.

The exercise is taking place amid increasing tension in the Gulf region following a drone attack on a merchant tanker 'MV Mercer Street' off Oman.

Quick Fact: INS Kochi was built by Mazagon Dock Ltd. (MDL) for the Indian Navy under the code name Project 15A.

2. Art & Culture

National Maritime Heritage Complex to be developed as an international tourist destination

NMHC is to be developed in Lothal region of Gujarat as an international tourist destination and will be dedicated to the legacy of maritime heritage of India.

The heritage complex would cover an area of 400 acres comprising structures like Heritage Theme Park, Maritime Institute, eco resorts, etc.

The complex seeks to create an edutainment approach with virtual reality, sound and light shows and short films on important events of Maritime history.

Quick Fact: Lothal was the southernmost city of ancient Indus Valley Civilisation and had the world's earliest known dock.

3. International Affairs

China plans to become carbon-neutral by the year 2060

China is the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide currently due to the rapid industrialization that took place over the years.

Carbon neutral means cutting carbon dioxide emissions as large as possible and offsetting what cannot be eliminated by switching to renewable energy sources.

To achieve the carbon neutral goal by 2060 China requires to find alternatives for fossil fuels which powers its economy and rapid urbanisation.

Quick Facts: China is currently the world's largest producer of Gold.

4. Science & Technology

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal to launch Faceless Transport Services

Delhi government will launch faceless transport services and will bring all the driving licences, registration and services related to permit, online.

Faceless services consist of renewal of driving licence, learning licences, transfer of ownership, duplicate registration and many more services.

E-Learning Licences (eLL) could also be obtained by the applicants following an online test at home or workplace.

5. National Affairs

PM Modi announces 'National Edible Oil Mission'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a INR 11,000 crore National Edible Oil Mission- Palm Oil (NMEO-OP) to make India self-reliant.

The farmers will be provided with all the facilities from quality seeds to technology under the Mission.

The centre has been already running a National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm to boost oilseeds and palm oil

6. Economy

SIDBI unveils 'Digital Prayaas' app-based lending platform

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has unveiled an app-based digital lending platform 'Digital Prayaas' to facilitate loans to entrepreneurs.

The platform has engaged in the promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

SIDBI has partnered with BigBasket to provide loans to its delivery partners for the purchase of e-bikes and e-vans facilitating loan to the borrower's family for their own micro-enterprise.

Quick Facts: SIDBI is headquartered in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

7. Agreement

UNICEF India and Facebook join hands to making a safer online world for children

UNICEF India and Facebook have launched a one-year initiative on ending violence against children creating a safe online and offline space for children.

The initiative aims to increase awareness on violence against children and improve a child's resilience as well as capacity to access the digital world safely.

The partnership includes a nationwide social media campaign and capacity building for 100,000 school children on online safety, digital literacy and psychosocial support.

Quick Facts: Facebook is headquartered in California, United States of America.

8. State Affairs

Nagaland wins 7 National Awards under the Van Dhan Yojana Scheme

Nagaland has been conferred with 7 national awards on the first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21 during the 34th foundation day of TRIFED.

Union Tribal Minister of Nagaland, Arjun Munda presented the awards through a zoom webinar.

The state has claimed the top position in 'Best Survey State', 'Best Training' and 'Most number of VDVKC's established'.

Quick Facts: The full form of TRIFED is 'TRIBal Cooperative Marketing Development FEDeration of India Limited'.

13th August

1. Environment

Chattisgarh becomes the first state to recognise Forest Resources Rights in Urban Region

Chattisgarh has become the first state in India to recognise Community Forest Resources Rights in an urban area.

The state government has recognised the rights of the residents of Dhamtari district over 4,127 hectares of forests and 5,544 hectares of forests within the core area of the tiger reserve.

Under the Forest Act 2006, the Forest Resources Rights gives gram sabhas the right to protect, regenerate, conserve or manage any forest resources managed by the entire community.

Quick Fact: Bhupesh Bagel is the Chief Minister of Chattisgarh.

2. Defense

Indian Air Force builds one of the world's highest mobile ATC towers in Ladakh

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has built one of the world's highest mobile air traffic control (ATC) towers at the Advanced Landing Ground in Ladakh.

The ATC controls operations of the fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters operating in the eastern Ladakh region.

India has also been considering developing airfields in the eastern Ladakh region including Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), Fukche and Nyoma.

Quick Fact: The Indian Air Force was founded on 8 October 1932.

3. Defense

DRDO successfully test fires Nirbhay Missile off the coast of Odisha

The Defense Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired medium-range subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay from ITR at Chandipur, off Odisha coast.

Nirbhay is India's first Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM).

The missile features a Made-in-India Manik Turbofan engine and can travel at a speed of 0.7 to 0.9 Mach.

Quick Fact: Dr G Satheesh Reddy is the Chairman of DRDO.

4. Science and Technology

ISRO Chief K Sivan inaugurates Health QUEST study

ISRO Chief, Dr. K Sivan has formally inaugurated the Health QUEST study (Health Quality Upgradation Enabled by Space Technology) which would be undertaken by 20 private hospitals.

The inaugural event was co-organised by the Association of Health Care Providers India India (AHPI) and the Society for Emergency Medicine in India (SEMI).

The objective of the study is to strive towards reducing human errors, achieve zero defect and quality service in emergency and intensive care units of the hospital.

Quick Facts: ISRO is headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

5. Economy

RBL Bank choose Amazon Web Services as its preferred cloud provider

The RBL Bank has selected the Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com company as its preferred cloud provider.

AWS helps RBL bank to strengthen its AI-powered banking solutions and drive digital transformation at the Bank.

The Bank is building on its analytics practise and investing in AI capabilities to implement various use cases across multiple segments including Risk, HR, Customer Service, etc.

Quick Fact: The MD and CEO of RBL Bank is Vishwavir Ahuja.

6. Sports

ICC to push for Cricket's inclusion in Olympics 2028

The International Cricket Council will campaign for the inclusion of Cricket at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Cricket has only made one appearance till now way back in 1900 in Paris when Great Britain and hosts France competed together.

The sport will feature in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games next year which would perfectly showcase what the sport can bring to the Olympics.

Quick Facts: International Cricket Council was founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909.

7. Person in News

Neeraj Chopra ranked number 2 in World Athletics Rankings 2021

Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra has finished at number 2 rank in the World Athletics Ranking 2021 after securing the Gold Medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

Chopra is only behind German athlete Johannes Vetter.

Chopra has become India's first athlete to win a gold medal in track and field at the Olympics.

Quick Facts: Neeraj Chopra is a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) in the Indian Army.

8. National Affairs

India's cleanest city Indore declared first water plus city

India's cleanest city Indore has now been declared as the first water plus city under the Swachh Survekshan 2021.

The certification is provided for maintaining cleanliness in rivers and drains by the Central Government.

Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation across cities and towns in India.

Quick Facts: The Swachh Survekshan was launched under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan,

14th August

1. Sports

Government launches Fit India Freedom Run 2.0

Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Thakur has launched a nationwide programme of Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 to celebrate the 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav'.

Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 was flagged off from Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi and will conclude on October 2, 2021.

The programme was launched with the aim of encouraging people to take up fitness activities in their daily lives in order to get freedom from laziness, stress & diseases.

2. Government Schemes

PM Modi announces INR 1,625 crore for women SHGs

PM Narendra Modi interacted with the members of women SHGs under the 'Aatmanirbhar Narihalti se Samvad' & announced to release a capitalisation support fund of INR 1,625 crores.

The capitalization support fund would benefit over 4 lakh SHGs.

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are informal associations of people who help in building functional capacity of the poor with respect to employment and income generating activities.

3. Science and Technology

Chandrayaan 2 orbiter discovers water molecule on Moon

Chandrayaan-2 orbiter of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has detected water molecules on the surface of Moon.

According to findings published in Current Science Journal, formation of water molecules happens due to a process called 'Space Weathering'.

This study becomes significant for future planetary exploration for resource utilisation since several international missions are lined up towards the moon for the coming years.

Quick Fact: Chandrayaan-2 mission was launched by ISRO in 2019.

4. Miscellaneous

Study reveals that children born during pandemic have lower IQs

A United Nations based study has claimed that children born during COVID-19 pandemic have reduced verbal, motor and overall cognitive performance.

The study held on 672 children of Rhode Island's revealed that males and children in lower socioeconomic families have been most affected due to the pandemic.

According to researchers, the biggest reason behind the reduced score is lack of stimulation and interaction at home.

Quick Fact: Rhode Island is the most smallest and the second most densely populated state of USA

5. Science and Technology

Indian Team 'SoftWorthy' wins US Innovation Award

SoftWorthy has been conferred the prestigious National Science Foundation Innovation Corps (NSFI- Corps) Team Awards in the United States.

SoftWorthy's award winning project focuses on developing computational methods for 'stochastic modelling, design simulation & sensitivity analysis' of electronic devices like printed-circuit-boards.

These innovations are critical for the growth of novel technological applications like driverless vehicles and energy efficient smart buildings.

6. State Affairs

Manoj Sinha inaugurates 'Bungus Awaam Mela' in Jammu & Kashmir

J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has inaugurated the 'Bungus Awaam Mela' with grand arrangements for village games, exhilarating local performances and others.

The activities have been arranged to celebrate the 75th year of Independence at the Bungus valley in the Kupwara district.

While inaugurating the fair, Sinha paid tributes to the great revolutionary, freedom fighter Khudiram Bose and remembered countless others unsung heroes.

Quick Fact: Jammu & Kashmir has two capitals Srinagar (summers) and Jammu (winters).

7. Miscellaneous

4 Indian Airports find place in Skytrax's top 100 airport list

The Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi has found place among the world's top 50 best airports in the 2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards.

The other three Indian Airports in the list are in Hyderabad (64), Mumbai (65) and Bengaluru (71) with IGI Airport becoming the first Indian airport to be placed in the top 50 list.

The Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar has been named the 'Best Airport in the World'.

16th August

1. Economy

Indian Navy and IDFC First Bank collaborate to launch 'Honour FIRST' banking solutions

The Indian Navy has inked a MoU with the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) First bank to launch 'Honour FIRST' banking solutions.

'Honour FIRST' is a premium banking solution for serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy.

The MoU for Honour FIRST was signed at the Naval Headquarters in New Delhi between Commodore Neeraj Malhotra and IDFC FIRST bank's senior officials.

Quick Fact: V Vaidyanathan is the MD & CEO of IDFC Bank.

2. Defense

Indian Navy takes part in US Navy-led multinational SEACAT exercises

The Indian Navy participated in the US Navy-led Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) military exercise in Singapore.

The main objective of SEACAT 2021 was to enhance the interoperability and shared maritime security concerns.

The 20th edition of the exercise was organised by the US Navy in Hybrid format and comprised approximately 400 personnel and 10 ships.

Quick Fact: SEACAT was held in 2002 for the first time.

3. Economy

HCL technologies becomes 4th IT firm to hit INR 3 trillion market-cap

HCL Technologies' market capitalization touched INR 3 trillion for the first time hence becoming the fourth Indian IT firm to achieve this milestone.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and Wipro are the other three IT companies who have already achieved this feat.

HCL Tech is the third-largest Indian IT services company by revenue after TCS and Infosys.

Quick Fact: HCL Technologies is headquartered in Noida.

4. Sports

Indian Bank signs MoU with Paralympic Committee

The Indian Bank has signed an MoU with the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) as one of the banking partners of the Paralympic Games scheduled to begin from August 24 in Tokyo, Japan.

The bank will provide financial assistance to paralympic athletes throughout its year-long association with PCI.

The timely financial aid to athletes will encourage them to focus their efforts on the game and win laurels for the country.

Quick Fact: Deepa Malik is the President of the Paralympic Committee of India.

5. Summits and Conferences

India organises IBSA Tourism Ministers' Meet virtually

India organised the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Tourism Ministers' meeting through the virtual platform recently.

The meeting was chaired by the Union Minister of Tourism of India, Shri G. Kishan Reddy.

The meeting provided a platform to promote tourism cooperation among the countries and recognized the importance of strengthening cooperation in tourism to overcome the impact of COVID-19.

Quick Fact: Portuguese is the official language of Brazil.

6. Sports

India sends largest ever contingent for Tokyo Paralympic Games

The upcoming Tokyo Paralympic will witness the largest ever Indian contingent being sent with 54 para-sports persons participating along 9 disciplines.

The 54-member Indian contingents were given a formal and virtual send-off by the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur.

The 2020 Summer Paralympics Games are scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan from August 24 to September 5, 2021.

Quick Fact: The International Olympic Committee is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.

7. Environment

Four more wetlands added to the Ramsar list

Four more wetlands from India have been added to the Ramsar list and have been recognised as wetlands of global importance in accordance with the Ramsar Convention.

The four sites included are- Thol (Gujarat), Wadhvana (Gujarat), Sultanpur (Haryana) & Bhindawas (Haryana).

The Ramsar list was created with the aim of developing and maintaining an International network of wetlands which are important to conserve global biological diversity.

Quick Fact: Vembanad Lake is the largest wetland in India.

8. Economy

NTPC invites global EOI to set up Hydrogen Blending Project

NTPC Ltd. has invited Global Expression of Interest (EOI) to establish a Pilot Project on Hydrogen Blending with Natural gas in India.

Project on Hydrogen Blending with Natural Gas will be set up across the City Gas Distribution (CGD) Network in India.

The pilot on hydrogen blending with natural gas is going to be first of its kind project in India & would explore the viability of decarbonizing the natural gas grid of India.

Quick Fact: NTPC Ltd. is headquartered in New Delhi.

17th August

1. Art & Culture

Google celebrates birth anniversary of Subhadra Kumari Chauhan

Google paid tribute to Subhadra Kumari Chauhan on her 117th birth anniversary by dedicating a creative doodle to her name.

Google doodle was illustrated by Prabha Mallya who is a New Zealand based guest artist.

Subhadra Kumari Chauhan was an Indian activist, freedom fighter and poet whose work gained national recognition in a male dominant field of literature.

Quick Fact: Subhadra Kumari Chauhan was the first women satyagrahi in 1923.

2. Government Schemes

PM Modi announces Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti National Master Plan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a 100 lakh crore Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti initiative recently.

The Gatishakti initiative will create employment opportunities for the youth in India and lead to the growth of infrastructure.

The initiative will help in raising the global profile of local manufacturers and increase the possibility of new future economic zones.

3. Economy

National Hydrogen Mission launched

PM Narendra Modi launched the National Hydrogen Mission on the occasion of celebration of 75th Independence Day.

In a bid to push the energy security of India, the mission seeks to make India a global hub for green hydrogen production and exports.

The government has also planned to implement Green Hydrogen Consumption Obligation (GHCO) in fertilizer production and petroleum refining in line with the mission.

Quick Fact: Hydrogen is a colourless, odourless gas found in Earth's atmosphere.

4. Defense

Sainik Schools to be open for female students as well

PM Narendra Modi announced that Sainik Schools across India will now be open for female students as well.

The decision was taken following the requests from lakhs of female students that they wanted to study in Sainik School.

Sainik Schools are a system of schools that was established and managed by Sainik Schools Society and comes under the Ministry of Defense (MoD).

Quick Fact: Girls were first allowed in Sainik schools of Mizoram about 2.5 years ago.

5. Economy

Bharat Petroleum launches door-to-door delivery of Diesel

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) launches door-to-door delivery of 'High Speed Diesel' with the objective of meeting growing demands.

BPCL has already launched 63 mobile dispensers across the state of West Bengal, odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand as well as North-East states.

High speed diesel is usually used as a fuel in medium and high-speed compression ignition engines that operate above 750 rpm.

Quick Fact: BPCL is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

6. National Affairs

Ministry of Social Justice launched an e-study platform 'TAPAS'

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched an online portal named 'TAPAS' (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services).

TAPAS is an initiative of the National Institute of Social Defense (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

TAPAS seeks to provide access to lectures by subject experts and e-study material in the field of social defense.

Quick Fact: Virendra Kumar Khatik is the Cabinet Minister of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

7. International Affairs

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani steps down as Taliban forces take power

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani will shortly resign as the government has surrendered to the Taliban forces which entered Kabul recently.

A new interim government has been announced which is likely to be headed by Ali Ahmad Jalali, a US-based academic.

Ghani fled the country as the Islamist terrorists entered the city while hundreds of Afghans were desperate to leave the country.

Quick Fact: Kabul is the Capital of Afghanistan.

8. Science and Technology

India's first Drone Forensic Lab comes up in Kerala

India's first Drone Forensic Lab and Research has come up in Kerala and was inaugurated by CM of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan at the Kerala State Police CyberDome.

Cyberdom is a technological research and development center of the Kerala Police Department.

The center will help in keeping a watch over unauthorized drones and also for the production of drones to be used by the police force.

Quick Fact: Arif Mohammad Khan is the Governor of Kerala.

18th August

1. National Affairs

Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates world's second-largest refurbished gene bank

The Union Minister for Agriculture and Family Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the world's second-largest National Gene Bank.

The National Gene Bank established at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa provides the facility for germplasm securing seeds for years.

The new facility will help in the conservation of the diversity of indigenous crops in the country and benefit farmers by providing a source of income.

Quick Fact: China National GeneBank (CNGB) is the world's largest gene bank situated in Shenzhen, China.

2. Economy

HDFC unveils 'Green & Sustainable Deposits' to fight climate change

The HDFC Bank has announced a 'Green & Sustainable Deposits' to safeguard the environment from climate change.

The fixed deposits would be directed towards financing green and sustainable housing credit solutions and services.

The facility would offer a deposit period of 36-120 months where both residents and NRIs can invest in this instrument.

Quick Fact: Sashidhar Jagdishan is the MD and CEO of HDFC Bank.

3. Sports

Harshit Raja becomes India's 69th Chess Grandmaster

The 20-year old Chess player Harshit Raja from Pune, Maharashtra has claimed the title of the 69th Grandmaster of India in Chess.

He achieved this feat at Biel Masters Open 2021 where he defeated Dennis Wagner.

Grandmaster (GM) title is awarded to chess players by the World Chess Organisation FIDE and is the highest title a chess player can attain.

Quick Fact: Norway GM Magnus Carlsen is the current world chess champion.

4. Miscellaneous

75 new Vande Bharat trains to connect all parts of India

PM Narendra Modi has announced that 75 Vande Bharat trains would connect different parts of the country in 75 weeks of the celebration of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Currently, two Vande Bharat Express trains are operating, the first operates between Varanasi & New Delhi and the second operates between Katra & New Delhi.

'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' is being celebrated from March 12, 2021, up to August 15, 2023.

Quick fact: Vande Bharat express also known as Train 18 was designed and built by Integral Coach Factory at Perambur, Chennai.

5. Government Schemes

Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2021 to be launched

The Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2021 of the Coal Ministry is all set to be launched as part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Under the Scheme, coal PSUs of the Ministry of Coal have set an ambitious target to cover 2385 hectares of the area by bio-reclamation or plantation under the 'Go Greening' drive.

The Mission will be launched by the Union Minister of Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Prahlad Joshi.

6. Government Schemes

Six lakh villages to get internet connectivity by 2024 under Bharat Net initiative

According to the Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrashekhar, six lakh villages in India will get internet connectivity by 2024 under the BharatNet program.

Currently, about 2.8 lakh villages have got internet facility and the government is aiming to provide internet facilities for each household.

BharatNet initiative is a flagship mission implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL) and the Department of Telecommunication.

Quick Fact: BharatNet initiative was earlier launched as the National Optical Fibre Network in 2011.

7. Defense

HAL successfully tests Hindustan-228 aircraft

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully carried ground tests for making a civilian aircraft named 'Hindustan-228'.

The ground run and low-speed taxi trials (LSTT) of the Hindustan-228 aircraft were carried out at the HAL facility at Kanpur.

The Hindustan-228 aircraft has been built to support the regional connectivity scheme-UDAN and would be used as an air ambulance, VIP transport, cloud seeding, etc.

Quick Fact: HAL is headquartered in Bangalore, Karnataka.

8. International Affairs

Malaysia PM Muhyiddin Yassin resigns amid political turmoil in the country

Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin recently resigned from his position following months of political turmoil in the country.

Yassin and his cabinet resigned after losing his majority opening another chapter of instability due to the absence of an obvious successor.

Yassin resigned after the tenure of 17 months in the office making him the Malaysian leader with the shortest stint to date.

Quick fact: The King of Southeast Asian nations is Al-Sultan Abdullah.

25th August

1. Science and Technology

ISRO's 'Announcement of Opportunity to analyze the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter

ISRO has come up with an 'Announcement of Opportunity' which proposes scientific analysis and utilization of data from all the experiments of the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter.

The opportunity is open to all researchers from recognized institutions, colleges, universities, and government organizations.

Chandrayaan-2 is the second lunar exploration by ISRO consisting of lunar orbiter Vikram lander and Pragyan lunar rover.

Quick Facts: Vikram Sarabhai founded ISRO on 15 August 1969.

2. National Affairs

Vice President launches 'Vaccinate India Programme'

Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu has recently launched the 'Vaccinate India Programme'.

The program was organized at Raj Bhawan by Give India Foundation and Sustainable Goals Coordination Centre in Bengaluru.

The program was launched under CSR in association with the Planning Department of the Karnataka government.

Quick Facts: India granted the emergency use approval for ZyCoV-D manufactured by Zydus Cadila for children aged 12 and more.

3. Summits and Conferences

Tim Cook to join White House cybersecurity meeting

Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook and Microsoft Corp. Chief Executive Satya Nadella are all set to attend the White House cybersecurity meeting.

CEOs of other large tech companies, energy companies, banks including IB Machine Corps, Google, Southern Co have been invited to join the meeting with President Joe Biden.

A national security memorandum was signed by Joe Biden in July 2021 following multiple high-profile cyberattacks on American companies and government agencies.

Quick Facts: Apple came out with the first spreadsheet and calculator app, VisiCalc.

4. National Affairs

MyGov and UN Women collaborate to launch Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge 2021

MyGov under the Ministry of Electronics and IT along with UN Women have joined hands to launch the Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Innovation Challenge 2021.

The innovation challenge aims to encourage technology solutions developed by women entrepreneurs related to Women's safety and empowerment.

The initiative being implemented under the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Programme will promote 'Nari Sashaktikaran'

Quick Facts: UN Women was formed on 2 July 2010.

5. Economy

PayTM and HDFC Bank tie-up to provide solutions across payment gateway

HDFC Bank and PayTM have partnered to build comprehensive solutions across payment gateway, point of sale machines, and credit products.

The collaboration includes PayTM postpaid which is a Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) solution, Eazy EMI, and Flexi Pay.

The partnership will also deliver enhanced SmartHub solutions to the market which is an integrated platform offering merchants a one-stop solution for all their business needs payments.

Quick Facts: Sashidhar Jagdishan is the MD and CEO of HDFC Bank.

6. Defense

Second Indo-Qatari joint Naval exercise 'Zair-Al-Bahr' in the Persian Gulf

The second edition of the joint naval exercise, Zair-Al-Bahr between the Indian Navy Qatar Emiri Naval Force (QENF) was conducted recently in the Persian Gulf.

The exercise featured a three-day harbor phase followed by a two-day sea phase involving surface action, anti-piracy exercises, air defense, maritime exercises, etc.

In the sea phase, the Indian Navy's Stealth Frigate INS Trikand and QENF's missile boats of Barzan and Damrah class, fast attack MRTTP 34 class crafts & Rafale participated.

Quick Facts: Qatari Riyal is the currency used in Qatar.

7. Science and Technology

IIT Madras develops India's first indigenous motorized wheelchair 'NeoBolt'

IIT Madras has developed India's first indigenous motorized wheelchair vehicle named 'NeoBolt' which is suitable to be used on roads and uneven terrains.

The researchers collaborated extensively with organizations and hospitals working for people with locomotor disabilities to make the best-tuned machine.

The wheelchair powered by a Lithium-Ion battery can travel up to 25km per charge and would cost approximately INR 55,000 to users.

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