

Eazyprep

# **MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**COMPILATION**

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## September 1st

### 1. Science and Technology

#### IIT Madras develops online marketplace 'e-Source' to tackle e-waste

IIT Madras is in the process of developing an online platform called 'e-Source' that will be used to tackle electronic waste.

E-source will be used to tackle e-waste by linking stakeholders of the formal and informal economy as an online marketplace for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).

The initiative is being headed by Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCSS).

**Quick Fact:** In India, only 5 percent of e-waste is recycled responsibly.

### 2. Sports

#### India bags 6 gold medals in the Asian Youth Championships

Indian boxers won six gold medals along with nine silver and five bronze medals in the Asian Youth Championship.

Preeti Dahiya, Sneha Kumari, Khushi, and Neha won the gold medals in the women's draw while Bishwamitra Chongtham and Vishal won the gold in the men's competition.

Asian Youth Athletics Championships is a biennial, continental athletics competition held for Asian athletes and is organized by the Asian Athletics Association.

**Quick Fact:** The first Asian Youth Championship was held in 2015.

### 3. Defense

#### Indian Navy conducts first exercise with the Algerian Navy

The Indian and Algerian Navies conducted their first-ever naval exercise off the coast of Algeria recently.

Stealth ship INS Tabar represented India while Algeria was represented by its naval ship ANS Ezager.

As part of the exercise, activities like communication procedures, coordinated maneuvers, and past steam were carried out between Indian and Algerian warships.

**Quick Fact:** ISRO launched the Satellite Alsat 2A of Algeria into orbit in July 2010.

### 4. Environment

#### Odisha's Kendrapara district becomes the only place to house all 3 crocodile species

Kendrapara district of Odisha that is crisscrossed by rivers, creeks, and water inlets has become the only district in India where all the three species of crocodiles viz. salt-water, gharial, and mugger are found.

The district has also claimed its successful conservation program launched for salt-water or estuarine crocodiles at the Bhitarkanika National Park.

The Bhitarkanika National Park is located in the northeast Kendrapara district of Odisha and has obtained the status of a Ramsar site in 2002.

## **5. International Affairs**

### **US ends the 20-year war in Afghanistan**

The United States has announced the formal end of its 20-year-old war in Afghanistan before the anniversary of September 9/11 in which Al Qaeda terrorists hit the twin towers in New York.

The announcement was made after the last American military flight flew out of the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul.

The US-backed Afghan rule was overthrown by the Taliban agent on August 15 when President Ashraf Ghani fled the country and the US-trained 3,00,000 Afghan armed forces surrendered without any fight.

**Quick Fact:** Pashto and Dari are the official languages of Afghanistan.

## **6. State Affairs**

### **Toy-train safari launched on Darjeeling Himalayan Route**

The Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR) has launched a regular Jungle Tea Toy Train Safari on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Route.

The toy-train safari will run from Siliguri junction to Rongtong station in West Bengal.

The toy trains are expected to boost the tourism sector in the region and allow locals to participate in the weekend tours regularly.

## **7. Science and Technology**

### **IIT Roorkee- NDMA develops app to predict natural disasters**

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and IIT Roorkee have developed an app in a joint venture that can predict natural disasters.

The app will use the Doppler Radar technology to alert about possible natural calamities in advance.

The development of the app is in line with the proposal by the Central Government to simplify the disaster parameters of 2011.

**Quick Fact:** The full form of Radar is 'Radio Detection and Ranging'.

## 8. Person in News

### Renowned cricket coach Vasoo Paranjape passes away

Former Indian cricketer and coach, Vasoo Paranjape has passed away at the age of 82.

Vasoo was considered a mentor of stalwarts like Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, and Rohit Sharma.

Born in Gujarat, Vasoo was a former Ranji trophy player and coach at the National Cricket Academy.

**Quick Fact:** The National Cricket Academy is located in Chinnaswamy Cricket Stadium, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

## September 2nd

### 1. Environment

#### World's first 'Plant based' Smart Air-Purifier 'Ubreathe Life'

The world's first Plant-based smart air-purifiers called 'Ubreathe Life' has been developed by the scientists of Indian Institutes of Technology, Ropar and Kanpur, and the Faculty of Management Studies of Delhi University.

The product developed by Urban Air Laboratory, a start-up company of IIT Ropar amplifies the air purification process in indoor spaces.

The product is being claimed as the world's first state-of-the-art 'Smart Bio-Filter' which can make breathing fresh.

**Quick Fact:** IIT Ropar is a designated iHub-AWadh by the Department of Science and Technology.

### 2. International Affairs

#### India conducts first meeting with Taliban

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), its Ambassador of Qatar Deepak Mittal, met the head of the Taliban's political office, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai recently.

The meeting was held at the request of the Taliban as their leaders have been keen to receive acceptability.

During the meeting discussions focussed on safety, security and that Afghanistan's soil should not be used for any anti-Indian activities and terrorism.

**Quick Fact:** Mohammad Omar founded the Taliban group in 1994.

### 3. Economy

#### **World's highest motorable road inaugurated in Ladakh**

A road connecting Leh to the Pangong lake was inaugurated by the Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal.

The stretch passing through the Kela Pass at 18,600 feet is the world's highest motorable way and was constructed by the 58 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army.

The road will play a significant role in boosting the socio-economic status of residents, primarily for the people of the Lalok region of Ladakh, and facilitate tourism.

**Quick Fact:** The Pangong Lake is divided into five sub-lakes: Pangong Tso, Rum Tso (twin lakes), Tso Nyak and Nyak Tso.

### 4. Summits and Conferences

#### **India hosts 8th Meeting of Agricultural Experts of BIMSTEC Countries**

The 8th Meeting of Agricultural Experts of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries was hosted by India recently.

The meeting was attended by Agricultural Ministries from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, India, Myanmar, and Thailand.

During this meet, Chairman highlighted the UN Food System Summit 2021 and transformational aspects that are happening across agriculture and food systems globally.

**Quick Fact:** The BIMSTEC was founded in 1998.

### 5. International Affairs

#### **Sri Lanka declares Food Emergency**

Sri Lanka has declared a state of food emergency over food shortages after the private banks in the country ran out of foreign exchange to finance imports.

Following the crisis, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa ordered emergency regulations to counter the hoarding of sugar, rice, and other such essential foods.

The economy of Sri Lanka reduced by 3.6 percent in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has become the country with the fourth-largest daily deaths worldwide by population.

**Quick Fact:** Colombo is the Capital of Sri Lanka.

### 6. State Affairs

#### **FM Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates 'My Pad, My Right' project in Tripura**

In Tripura, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated a project called 'My Pad, My Right' at Killa village in Gomati district.

The project has been initiated by NABARD and NABFOUNDATION.

The project aims to bring livelihood and menstrual hygiene closer to rural women by the way of grants, wage support, and capital equipment.

**Quick Fact:** The Chief Minister of Tripura is Biplab Kumar Deb.

## 7. Economy

### **SBI opened a floating ATM on Dal Lake in J&K's Srinagar**

The State Bank of India has opened a floating ATM on a Houseboat at Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar for the convenience of locals and tourists.

The floating ATM was inaugurated by SBI Chairman Dinesh Khare.

SBI launched a floating ATM for the first time back in 2004 where the ATM was set up at Jhankar Yacht in Kerala.

**Quick Fact:** SBI is headquartered in Mumbai.

## 8. Miscellaneous

### **Ladakh based Dorje Angchuk to be inducted as the Honorary Member of the IAU**

Dorje Angchuk, an Engineer in charge at the Indian Astronomical Observatory at the IIA at Hanle has been admitted as the Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

Angchuk is the first and only Indian to bag the position in the prestigious body.

Angchuk has been selected for his passionate promotion of astronomy in the Ladakh region through his excellent astrophotography,

**Quick Fact:** The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) is headquartered in Bengaluru.

## September 3rd

### 1. Summits and Conferences

#### **Smriti Irani chairs the National Conference 2021 of States and UTs**

Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani chaired the National Conference, 2021 held at Kevadia, Gujarat.

The event started by giving tribute to Sardar Vallabhai Patel at the Statue of Unity followed by planting of Nutri-fruit saplings at Mahila Evam Bal Sashaktikaran.

Ministers discussed on implementation and governance of three key Missions- Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya, and Mission Shakti.

## **2. International Affairs**

### **Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, and South Africa launch CBDC Scheme**

The Central banks in Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, and South Africa launched a Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC) Scheme recently.

CBDC Scheme is a cross-border payments trial that uses different central bank digital currencies and is the digital form of existing currencies.

The latest CBDC project was launched by the stated countries to develop prototype shared platforms and enable financial institutions to interact directly with each other.

**Quick Fact:** South Africa has three capitals- Pretoria (executive), Cape Town (legislative), and Bloemfontein (judicial).

## **3. Government Schemes**

### **'Saath' initiative launched for Self-Help Groups in J&K**

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha launched the Rural Enterprise Acceleration Programme called 'Saath' for Self-Help Groups (SHG) women recently.

The initiative will help about 48,000 SHGs and will focus on mentoring and market linkages of products that are created by these women

The initiative was launched to transform the lives of rural women associated with SHGs and seeks to run them strong, financially, and socially.

**Quick Fact:** Pheran is the traditional Kashmiri Dress.

## **4. Defense**

### **Indian Navy signs contract with BEL to supply Anti-Drone systems**

The Indian Navy signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the supply of the first indigenous comprehensive Naval Anti-Drone Systems (NADS).

The NADS has been developed by DRDO and manufactured by BEL in multiple units in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, and Machillipatnam together.

NADS can detect and jam micro drones and uses a laser-based kill mechanism to terminate the targets.

**Quick Fact:** Venkateshwara Gowtama Mannava is the Founder of BEL.



## 5. Defense

### India is all set to participate in Exercise ZAPAD 2021

Indian Army contingent is prepared to participate in a two-week multinational military exercise called 'ZAPAD 2021'.

The 13-day exercise beginning from September 3 at Nizhny in Russia aims to boost anti-terror cooperation.

A contingent of 200 personnel of the Indian Army will participate in the exercise and will feature an all Arms combined task force.

**Quick Fact:** The Indian Army has 7 commands- Kolkata, Chandigarh, Udhampur, Pune, Lucknow, Jaipur, and Shimla.

## 6. Economy

### Google Pay launches digital FD in tie-up with Equitas Small Finance Bank

Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB) has launched a new initiative enabling Google Pay users to book Fixed Deposits (FD).

Initially, this functionality will be available for Google Pay users who are accessing the app from Android.

The deposits in Equitas are covered by a deposit guarantee of up to INR 5 lakh per depositor.

**Quick Fact:** Equitas SFB is headquartered in Chennai.

## 7. National Affairs

### PM releases commemorative coin on the 125th Birth Anniversary of Swami Prabhupada

PM Modi releases a special commemorative coin of 125 rupees on the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

Swami Prabhupada founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness commonly known as 'Hare Krishna Movement'.

Swami Ji also established over a hundred temples and wrote several books teaching the path of Bhakti Yoga to the world.



**September 4th****1. Defense****India-US ties up for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle**

India and the United States had signed a Project Agreement for the 'Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle' at the end of July 2021.

The Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle will be launched under the ambit of Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).

The agreement highlights the collaboration between the Indian Air Force, Air Force Research Laboratory, and DRDO for the design, development, demonstration of systems to co-develop the ALUAV prototype.

**2. Science and Technology****NASA's Mars Rover collects its first rock sample**

NASA's Mars rover 'Perseverance' has successfully collected the first rock sample for the return to Earth.

Perseverance's Chief Engineer Adam Steltzner has termed the rock as the perfect core sample.

Perseverance arrived at the Jezero Crater of Mars in February 2021.

**Quick Fact:** Mars 2020 is a 'Mars rover mission' under NASA's Mars Exploration Program which comprises of rover 'Perseverance' and a small robotic, coaxial helicopter 'Ingenuity'.

**3. National Affairs****Shikshak Parv 2021 to be observed from September 5**

The Shikshak Parv 2021 will be observed from September 5 to honor the contribution of teachers.

During the Shikshak Parv 2021, PM Narendra Modi will address teachers, students, and other stakeholders of the education sector on September 7.

Five initiatives will be launched namely- the Indian sign language dictionary, Talking books, SQAAC of CBSE, NISTHA teachers' training program for NIPUN Bharat & Vidyanjali Portal.

**Quick Fact:** Shikshak Parv-2021 will be celebrated by the Ministry of Education (MoE) from September 5 to 17, 2021.

**4. International Affairs****New Development Bank approves UAE, Bangladesh, and Uruguay as new members**

New Development Bank has approved the United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, and Uruguay as its new member countries.

UAE, Uruguay, and Bangladesh have been admitted as the first new member countries of the NDB since 2020.

NDB was established by the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).

**Quick Fact:** Venkateshwara Gowtama Mannava is the Founder of BEL.

## 5. Sports

### **Avani Lekhara becomes first Indian woman to win two medals in Tokyo Paralympics**

Avani Lekhara won the bronze medal in the women's 50 m rifle 3 positions SH1 event becoming the first Indian woman to win two medals at the Paralympics.

Lekhara had previously won gold in the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event.

India's current medal tally stands at 12 medals- two golds, six silver, and four bronze.

**Quick Fact:** The Indian Army has 7 commands- Kolkata, Chandigarh, Udhampur, Pune, Lucknow, Jaipur, and Shimla.

## 6. Defense

### **Gujarat to host Defense Expo 2022**

CM Vijay Rupani announced that the next Defense Expo 2022 will be hosted by Gujarat in Gandhinagar from March 10th to 13th.

An MoU has been signed between the Department of Defense Production and the Gujarat Government in this regard.

The event will boast around 100 countries and aims to make India a Defense manufacturing hub.

## 7. National Affairs

### **I&B ministry to form a committee to review Journalist Welfare Scheme**

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has decided to form a committee to review the Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS).

The 12-member committee will be chaired by Ashok Kumar Tandon, a Member of the Prasar Bharti Board.

The terms of reference (ToR) of the committee include revising the quantum of ex-gratia payment in case of death as well as in other cases, under the scheme.

**Quick Fact:** Anurag Singh Thakur is the Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

**September 6th**

### **1. State Affairs**

#### **Maharashtra to set up science city named after Rajiv Gandhi in Pune**

The Maharashtra Government has decided to set up a world-class science city at Pimpri-Chinchwad near Pune.

The city will develop a scientific outlook among the students and prepare them to become students in the future.

The city will be named the 'Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Science Innovation City'.

**Quick Fact:** Bhagat Singh Koshiyari is the Governor of Maharashtra.

### **2. Person in News**

#### **Vartika Shukla becomes the first woman CMD of Engineers India Ltd.**

Vartika Shukla has been appointed as the first woman Chairperson and Managing Director of public sector enterprise Engineers India Ltd.

Shukla spearheaded the company's innovative energy programs including biofuels, coal gasification, waste to fuel, and hydrogen energy among others.

Vartika was a graduate in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur and joined EIL in 1988.

**Quick Fact:** Engineers India Ltd. was founded in 1965.

### **3. Miscellaneous**

#### **The University of Oxford tops Times World Rankings 2022**

The University of Oxford has been ranked first according to the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022.

The California Institute of Technology and the Harvard University are placed at the second and third positions respectively in THE Rankings.

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru is placed between 301-350 position in the rankings.

**Quick Fact:** IISc Bangalore. IIT Ropar and IIT Indore are ranked in the top 500 list of THE.

### **4. Miscellaneous**

#### **India becomes 3rd largest Unicorn ecosystem in the world**

Hurun Research Institute has released the Hurun India Future Unicorn List 2021 as per which India has been ranked the third largest Unicorn startup ecosystem in the world.

USA and China have been ranked second and third respectively in the list.

India has 51 unicorns where Bengaluru is the top Indian city in terms of the number of Unicorns headquartered in a city.

## **5. Sports**

### **Manish Narwal and Singhraj Adhana bag gold and silver in 50m Mixed Pistol at Paralympics**

Indian shooter's Manish Narwal and Singhraj Adhana clinched the gold and silver medal respectively in the P4 Mixed 50m Pistol

The 19 y/o Manish created a Paralympic record as he amassed 218.2 points to clinch the gold medal followed by Singhraj with 216.7 points.

The Russian Paralympic Committee's (RPC) Sergey Mayshev won the bronze medal.

**Quick Fact:** The Paralympics 2020 is being held in Tokyo.

## **6. Environment**

### **India becomes first Asian country to launch a Plastics pact**

India has become the first Asian country to launch a Plastic pact recently.

The new platform was developed by the World Wide Fund for Nature-India in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The pact has launched by the British High Commissioner to India, Alexander Ellis aims to keep plastic packaging out of the natural economy.

## **7. Economy**

### **Amazon India launches Kisan Store**

Amazon India announced the launch of Kisan Store flagged off by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.

Kisan Store is an online platform that enables farmers to get access to more than 8,000 agriculture inputs like farm tools and accessories.

The Kisan Store will be available in languages like Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, and Malayalam.

**September 7th**

### **1. Defense**

#### **Singapore-India conduct naval exercise 'SIMBEX-2021'**

The 28th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) took place recently.

The SIMBEX\_2021 annual bilateral maritime exercise was hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the southern fringes of the South China Sea.

The Indian Navy was represented by Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay with a shipborne helicopter, ASW Corvette INS Kiltan, INS Kora, and one PBI Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

**Quick Fact:** Mandarin and Malay are the official languages of Singapore.

### **2. Economy**

#### **PhonePe launches a digital payment interactive geospatial platform 'Pulse Platform'**

India's first interactive platform with data insights and trends on digital payments has been launched by PhonePe named 'PhonePe Pulse'.

The platform shows more than 2000 crore digital transactions by customers as an interactive map of India.

PhonePe also launched the Pulse Report which is an in-depth study on the evolution of digital payments over the past 5 years.

**Quick Fact:** Sameer Nigam is the CEO of PhonePe

### **3. Sports**

#### **India finishes 24th with record 19 medals at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020**

India has finished at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 with an all-time high of 19 medals- 5 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze.

India has been placed at the 24th position in the overall medal tally out of a total of 162 nations.

Javelin Thrower Tek Chand was the flag bearer at the opening ceremony while Shooter Avani Lekhara was the flag bearer at the closing ceremony.

**Quick Fact:** Avani Lekhara became the first Indian woman to win 2 medals at a single Paralympics.

#### 4. Sports

##### **Max Verstappen wins Dutch Grand Prix 2021**

Max Verstappen (Red Bull-Netherlands) has won the formula one Dutch Grand Prix 2021.

Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-great Britain) and Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) came second and third respectively.

Max's leading seventh win of the season and 17th of his career moved him three points ahead of the defending champions who finished second.

#### 5. Miscellaneous

##### **'Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth' released by Angelina Jolie**

Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie has recently announced her upcoming book titled 'Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth'.

The book has been written jointly by Angelina Jolie and Amnesty International and human rights lawyer Geraldine Van Bueren QC.

The book will be helpful for young people and children from around the world making them well-aware of their rights.

**Quick Fact:** Angelina Jolie is also the recipient of the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award.

#### 6. State Affairs

##### **Varanasi-Chunar Cruise Service begins to boost Tourism**

The Varanasi Chunar Cruise Service that started recently has added a new dimension to the tourism facilities in Varanasi.

The cruise service in the Ganga River will run from Varanasi to the historic Chunar fort in Mirzapur.

The day-long luxury cruise ride starts at 9 am from Ravidas Ghat and returns to Varanasi at around 5 pm from the Chunar fort.

**Quick Fact:** Varanasi originates from the names of two tributaries of Ganga- Varuna, and Assi.

#### 7. Person in News

##### **PM Modi tops Morning Consult Global Ratings**

According to the US-based global leader tracker Morning Consult, the approval rating of PM Modi was the highest among 13 world leaders surveyed.

PM Narendra Modi obtained an approval rating of 70 percent.

PM Modi has also achieved the lowest disapproval rating among adults.

**Quick Fact:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014.

## September 8th

### 1. National Affairs

#### India's first dugong conservation reserve to be set up in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu government has announced to set up India's first dugong conservation reserve at the northern part of the Palk Bay.

According to the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) estimates, only 200-250 Dugongs are left in the wild, of which 150 are found in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu.

The reserve will cover an area of more than 500 sq km.

**Quick Fact:** Dugongs are also known as sea cows.

### 2. Defense

#### Naval Exercise between India and Australia AUSINDEX begins

The 4th edition of AUSINDEX, a bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy

Indian Navy Task Group comprises INS Shivalik and INS Kadmat.

AUSINDEX was commenced in 2015 as a bilateral IN-RAN maritime exercise.

**Quick Fact:** Scott Morrison is the Prime Minister of Australia.

### 3. Science and Technology

#### India's first bio-brick building opened at IIT Hyderabad

India's first building made of bio-bricks from agro-waste has been inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.

The sample building is made up of bio-bricks supported by a metal framework while the roof is also made of bio-brick over PVC sheets to reduce sheets.

The building is a part of the Bold Unique Idea Lead Development (BUILD) project to demonstrate the strength and versatility of the material.

### 4. Sports



### **130th edition of Durand Cup kicks off in Kolkata**

The 130th edition of the Durand Cup has been inaugurated by CM Mamta Banerjee at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata recently.

16 teams are playing in this edition of the oldest club football tournament in Asia while two clubs East Bengal and Mohun Bagan are not participating

The Durand Cup is a prestigious football tournament and was first held in 1888, at Dagshai in Himachal Pradesh.

## **5. Miscellaneous**

### **Rani Rampal and Smriti Mandhana were appointed as Brand Ambassadors of Equitas Bank**

Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) has roped in Indian women hockey player, Rani Rampal and cricketer Smriti Mandhana as the brand ambassadors of the company

The announcement was made during the 5th anniversary of the ESFB on September 5, 2021.

Rampal holds the record for being the youngest player to play in the national hockey team while Mandhana was recognized as the Best Women's International Cricketer by BCCI.

**Quick Fact:** Equitas Small Finance Bank is headquartered in Chennai.

## **6. Summits and Conferences**

### **IAF Chief attends Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 in Hawaii**

Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria attended a three-day-long Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii.

The event themed "Enduring Cooperation towards Regional Stability" was attended by air chiefs from countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

India, the US, Australia, Japan, and many other like-minded countries are working towards ensuring a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

**Quick Fact:** Varanasi originates from the names of two tributaries of Ganga- Varuna, and Assi.

## **7. National Affairs**

### **President Ram Nath Kovind presents National Awards for Teachers 2021**

National Teachers' Award 2021 was awarded by President Ram Nath Kovind, September 5, 2021, to 44 finest teachers in the country for their dedicated contribution.

The award is contributed to those who improve the quality of education for students and also inspire, enrich their lives.

The award was also bestowed upon Pramod Kumar Shukla of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), Chhattisgarh.

## **September 9th**

### **1. National Affairs**

#### **PM Modi inaugurates Shikshak Parv 2021**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Shikshak Parv-2021 and addressed the conclave through video conferencing.

The theme of 'Shikshak Parv 2021' is "Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learning from Schools in India".

The event was organized by the Ministry of Education and will be celebrated from September 7 to 17, 2021.

**Quick Fact:** Dharmendra Padhan is the Union Minister of Education.

### **2. Defense**

#### **Indian Navy's aviation wing honored with prestigious President's Colour Award**

President Ram Nath Kovind has awarded the President's Colour to the Indian Naval Aviation at a ceremonial parade held at the INS Hansa base near Panjim in Goa.

The President's Colour is the highest honor bestowed on a military unit in recognition of its exceptional service to the nation.

The Indian Navy was the first amongst the Indian Armed Forces to be awarded the President's Colour on 27 May 1951 by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then President of India.

**Quick Fact:** The Indian Navy was founded in 1612.

### **3. Person in News**

#### **Namita Gokhale honored with the 7th Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award**

Writer Namita Gokhale has been chosen as the recipient of the seventh Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award.

She is a co-founder and co-director of the Jaipur Literature Festival and also mentors Himalayan Echoes and the Kumaon Festival of Literature and the Arts.

The award was organized by a collective of women professionals from the year 2015.

#### 4. International Affairs

##### **Yoshihide Suga to step down as Japan's Prime Minister**

Yoshihide Suga, the Prime Minister of Japan has announced to step down from his post after a one-year tenure of unpopular COVID-19 response and dwindling public support.

Suga succeeded Shinzo Abe who resigned last September and has seen his support ranking drop by 30% as the nation struggles with its worst wave of COVID-19.

Suga's decision to not run in a ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) election in September means the party will choose a new leader, who will become prime minister.

**Quick Fact:** Japanese yen is the currency of Japan.

#### 5. Miscellaneous

##### **Chandigarh Railway Station certified-star 'Eat Right Station'**

The Chandigarh Railway Station(CRS) was awarded a 5 star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.

The certification was awarded by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The certification is part of the 'Eat Right India' movement- a large-scale effort by FSSAI to transform the country's food system.

**Quick Fact:** Banwarilal Purohit is the Lt. Governor and administrator of Chandigarh.

#### 6. Economy

##### **HDFC-NSIC sign pact to provide Credit Support to MSMEs**

HDFC Bank has signed a MoU with the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) to offer credit support to MSMEs across India.

The partnership will help in boosting the MSME Sector's growth and will provide them with a set of tailored schemes enhancing their competitiveness.

NSIC is a Mini Ratna government agency and was established by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

**Quick Fact:** HDFC Bank was incorporated in 1994 as a subsidiary of Housing Development Finance Corporation.

#### 7. Environment

##### **IUCN Report states that 37% of sharks and rays are threatened with extinction**

According to a new red list by IUCN, the world's sharks and rays have been witnessing declines in their populations since 2014 and are now threatened with extinction.

About 37% of sharks and rays across the world are considered as endangered as of 2021, up from 33% in 2014.

IUCN highlighted that progress can be made towards conservation by reviving tuna populations and other species.

**Quick Fact:** Oceanic shark populations have also decreased by 71% in 1970.

## September 10th

### 1. International Affairs

#### Piyush Goyal appointed as India's Sherpa for G20

Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal has been appointed as India's Sherpa for G20.

G20 is an influential grouping that brings together 19 countries and the European Union (EU).

India will hold the G20 Presidency from December 1, 2022, and also convene the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time.

**Quick Fact:** G20 grouping was founded in 1999.

### 2. Economy

#### India's first Emergency Landing Facility on National Highway in Rajasthan

Union Defense Minister, Rajnath Singh and Union Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari have inaugurated the Emergency Landing Facility on a National Highway in Jalore, Rajasthan.

The emergency landing facility built by the NHAI under the supervision of IAF is a 3 KM section of the Satta-Gandhav stretch on NH-925A.

On the occasion, the C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft of IAF landed at the emergency field.

**Quick Fact:** The full form of NHAI is the 'National Highway Authority of India'.

### 3. Economy

#### India-ADB sign pact to improve urban water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a USD 112 million loan to develop water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand.

The loan will strengthen the capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) to improve service delivery in four towns of Jharkhand- Ranchi, Jhumri Telaiya, Hussainabad, and Medininagar.

It is the first urban project of ADB in Jharkhand.

#### **4. Defense**

##### **CCS clears procurement of 56 transport aircrafts**

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has cleared the procurement of 56 transport aircraft from Airbus recently.

The deal to buy C-295MW transport aircraft will cost upwards of INR 20,000 crore.

The Ministry will buy the transport aircraft from Airbus Defense and Space S.A., Spain.

**Quick Fact:** The C-295MW aircraft will replace the Avro aircraft of IAF.

#### **5. National Affairs**

##### **Union Minister Bhuendra Yadav inaugurates PRANA portal**

The Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav has launched a portal named PRANA for the regulation of air pollution in 132 cities across the country.

The portal will support tracking of physical as well as the financial status of city air action plan implementation and disseminate info on air quality to the public.

The cities which come under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) will be covered.

**Quick Fact:** The full form of PRANA is 'Portal for Regulation of Air Pollution in Non-Attainment' cities.

#### **6. Sports**

##### **Guinness World records recognise Ronaldo for most goals scored**

Portuguese captain Cristiano Ronaldo has broken the world record for most goals in men's international football.

Ronaldo surpassed Iranian striker Ali Daei's long-held record of 109 international goals by scoring a brace against Ireland in a World Cup Qualifier.

Ronaldo is now a Guinness World Record holder of the most international goal of all time with 111 goals.

**Quick Fact:** Cristiano has received five Ballon d'Or awards, the most for any European player to date.

#### **7. Miscellaneous**

## India's tallest air purifier tower installed in Chandigarh

India's tallest air purification tower has been inaugurated in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

The tower has been installed at the initiative of the Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee (CPCC) at Transport Chowk, Sector 26, by Pious Air Pvt. Ltd.

The tower covers an area of a 500-meter radius and is 24 meters high, cleaning around 3.88 crore cubic ft of air from the surroundings.

**Quick Fact:** Ravi Kant Sharma is the Mayor of Chandigarh.

## September 11th

### 1. International Affairs

#### India hosts BRICS Summit virtually

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 13th edition of the BRICS Summit virtually.

The theme of the summit is- "BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus".

The summit witnessed the participation of BRICS Leaders namely Jair Bolsonaro, Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping, and Ramaphosa.

**Quick Fact:** BRICS is the acronym coined to associate five major economies- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

### 2. India and the World

#### India-Denmark launch 'Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind'

Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, RK Singh met Minister of Climate, Energy, and Utilities of Denmark, Dan Jorgensen to launch the 'Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind'.

The center has been launched under the 'Green Energy Partnership' which was launched in 2020 to deliver sustainable solutions in India.

India has set a target of 450 GW of Renewable Energy capacity by 2030.

**Quick Fact:** Danish krone is the currency of Denmark.

### 3. Defense

#### DRDO hands over MRSAM System to IAF

DRDO has handed over the first deliverable Firing Unit (FU) of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) System to the Indian Air Force.

MRSAM is an advanced network-centric combat Air Defense System jointly developed by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

MRSAM system provides point and area air defense for ground assets against threats like fighter aircraft, helicopters, and UAVs.

#### **4. Environment**

##### **Jal Shakti Ministry launches Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021**

The Minister of State of Jal Shakti Ministry Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has launched the 'Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021' under Swachh Bharat Mission Phase- II.

The initiative will be undertaken by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitisation (DDWS) across the country.

The program has been launched to support the acceleration of ODF (Open Defecation Free) Plus Interventions.

**Quick Fact:** Swachh Bharat Initiative was launched by PM Modi in 2014.

#### **5. National Affairs**

##### **Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan releases NIRF Rankings 2021**

The Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has released the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2021 listing the top universities and colleges across India.

NIRF India Rankings 2021 has been announced for eleven categories and witnessed the participation of about 6,00 colleges and universities.

Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore has topped the University category and IIT Madras in the engineering category.

**Quick Fact:** NIRF was launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in 2015.

#### **6. International Affairs**

##### **Cuba becomes first country in world to begin vaccinating toddlers**

Cuba became the first country in the world to vaccinate children from the age of two against COVID-19/

The communist island of 11.2 million people aims to inoculate all its children before reopening schools that have been closed for the most part since March 2020.

The vaccine developed in Latin America has not yet undergone international, scientific peer review.



**Quick Fact:** Havan is the Capital of Cuba.

## 7. National Affairs

### Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu get new governors

President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Lt. Gen Gurnit Singh as the governor of Uttarakhand after the post fell vacant following the resignation of Baby Rani Maurya.

The President also appointed Banarilal Purohit as the Governor of Punjab.

RN Ravi, presently the Governor of Nagaland has been made the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

## September 13th

### 1. International Affairs

#### US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP)

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, and US Secretary of Energy Ms. Jennifer launched the revamped US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP).

The fifth Pillar on Emerging Fuels and a new India-US task Force on Biofuels was also announced.

SCEP was launched in line with US-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership announced by PM Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden in April 2021 at the Leaders' Summit on Climate.

**Quick Fact:** The US is the world's largest producer of Oil and Natural Gas.

### 2. Science and Technology

#### Digital Population Clock inaugurated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Bharati Pravin Pawar inaugurated the Digital Population Clock recently.

The clock was inaugurated at the Institute of Economic Growth inside the University of Delhi.

The clock will provide minute by minute estimate of India's population and capture data on the Total Fertility Rate, Infant Mortality as well as Maternal Mortality Rate.

### 3. International Affairs

#### India-Japan Sixth Maritime Affairs Dialogue

India and Japan held their sixth Maritime Affairs Dialogue recently in a virtual format.

The dialogue involved exchanges on developments in the areas of regional cooperation activities, maritime security environment.

The countries also held a bilateral annual Maritime Exercise called JIMEX- Japan India Maritime Exercise.

**Quick Fact:** First round of the India-Japan Maritime dialogue was held in 2013 in New Delhi.

#### **4. Science and Technology**

##### **Co-WIN develops a new API called KYC-VS**

The Central Government has announced an Aadhar-like authentication system to access the vaccination status of an individual on the CoWIN platform.

The new API is called 'Know Your Customer's or Client's Vaccination Status' or KYC-VS.

The API was developed as an extra security layer to protect personnel data before sharing it with any third-party verifying entity.

**Quick Fact:** CoWIN is dubbed as 'Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network'.

#### **5. International Affairs**

##### **El Salvador become the first country to adopt Bitcoin as National Currency**

El Salvadore has become the first country in the world to accept Bitcoin as legal tender.

The government claimed that the move will give many citizens of the country access to bank services for the first time.

The trading in cryptocurrency will help the country save around USD 400 million in fees that are levied by banks and financial institutions on the money sent home by exports.

**Quick Fact:** San Salvador is the Capital of El Salvador.

#### **6. Science and Technology**

##### **China successfully launches new Earth observation satellite "Gaofen- 5 02"**

China successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite Gaofen- 5 02 into space aboard a Long March- 4C rocket.

The satellite was launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China's Shanxi Province.

The satellite is the 24th in the series of Gaofen Earth-observation satellites of China to monitor environmental protection efforts and boost its natural resources.

**Quick Fact:** Renminbi is the Currency of China.

#### **7. Miscellaneous**

**A book "Bullets Over Bombay: Satya and the Hindi Film gangster" by Uday Bhatia**

A new book titled "Bullets Over Bombay: Satya and the Hindi Film Gangster" authored by Uday Bhatia has been released.

The book deals with the testimonies from Ram Gopal Varma, Anurag Kashyap, Manoj Bajpayee, Vishal Bhardwaj, and Saurab Shukla.

Uday Bhatia is a film critic with Mint Lounge in Delhi and his writings have been published in the Caravan GQ, The Indian Quarterly, The Indian Express, and others.

**September 16th****1. International Affairs****India assures ASEAN of its support, in the post-pandemic period**

India has assured ASEAN partners of its support in the recovery efforts in the post-pandemic period.

The assurance was given during the 18th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultations meeting attended by the Economic Ministers of all ten ASEAN countries.

The ten ASEAN countries are- Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

**Quick Fact:** The full form of ASEAN is "Association of Southeast Asian Nations"

**2. Science and Technology****IIT Bombay launches 'Project Udaan'**

IIT Bombay launched 'Project Udaan' on the occasion of Hindi Diwas recently.

Project Udaan was launched to break the language barrier that many students face while joining the institutes of higher education.

The project enables the translation of engineering textbooks and other study materials from English to Hindin and other Indian languages.

**Quick Fact:** IIT Bombay was established in 1958.

**3. Economy****Ministry of Agriculture signs five MoUs with Private companies**

Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare signed five MoUs with private companies recently.

The MoUs were signed for pilot projects with five companies- CISCO, ITC Limited, Ninjacart, Jio Platforms Limited, and NCDEX e-markets Limited.

The pilot projects will help the farmers in making informed decisions on what crop to grow, the variety to be used and best practices to adopt to maximize yield.

**Quick Fact:** MoUs were signed as part of the Agriculture Ministry's Digital Agriculture Mission.

#### 4. Person in News

##### **Raja Randhir Singh was appointed as the acting President of the Olympic Council of Asia**

India's Raja Randhir Singh has taken over as the acting president of the Olympic Council of Asia as Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad A-Sabah appeals a guilty verdict in Swiss forgery trials.

Raja, a five-time Olympic shooter and an Asian Games gold-medallist in 1978 was promoted as an honorary vice president.

Singh has been a part of OCA as secretary-general for 24 years since 1991 and is the longest-serving executive board member.

**Quick Fact:** Olympic Council of Aisa is headquartered in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

#### 5. Economy

##### **Paytm Payments Bank launches FASTag-based metro parking facility**

Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. (PPBL) has launched India's first FASTag-based metro parking facility at the Kashmere gate metro station in collaboration with DMRC.

Paytm Payments Bank will be the acquiring bank to facilitate the processing of all FASTag-based transactions for cars having a valid FASTag sticker.

The parking facility is the first to accept payment via UPI mode launched for two-wheeler vehicles entering the parking site.

**Quick Fact:** Satish Kumar Gupta is the MD and CEO of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd.

#### 6. Summits and Conferences

##### **PM Narendra Modi to attend first in-person Quad Summit at White House**

PM Narendra Modi is set to attend the first-ever in-person Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Leaders' Summit at the White House in Washington DC on September 24, 2021.

The quad nation comprises- India, Japan, the US, and Australia.

PM Modi will also address the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on his first visit since President Joe Biden assumed office.

## 7. Miscellaneous

### Bhanumati Gheewala to get National Florence Nightingale Award 2021

The Florence Nightingale Award will be given to a nurse, Bhanumati Gheewala from Sir Sayajirao General Hospital, Gujarat.

Bhanumati was in charge of COVID-19 positive pregnant women's deliveries and infant care, carrying her duties even in a waterlogged hospital.

The Florence Nightingale Award is given by the Indian Nursing Council, a statutory agency under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

## September 17th

### 1. International Affairs

#### New security partnership AUKUS for Indo-Pacific region

US President Joe Biden's administration has announced a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific.

The security partnership was done between Australia, United Kingdom, and the United States.

The 18-month trilateral partnership will help Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines which are quite, more capable as compared to their conventional counterparts.

**Quick Fact:** Australia Day is celebrated on 26th January every year.

### 2. Person in News

#### PM Modi on Time's '100 Most Influential' List

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been named among the 100 Most Influential People of 2021 by Time Magazine.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and CEO of Serum Institute of India, Adar Poonawalla have also been named among the world's 100 most influential people.

According to Time's profile of Modi, he is the third leader to dominate India's politics after Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi.

**Quick Fact:** The first edition of Time magazine was published on March 3, 1923.

### 3. Defense

#### 6th Edition of Exercise SCO Peaceful Mission 2021

The Indian Military contingent consisting of all arms combined force of 200 personnel including 38 personnel from IAF is taking part in Exercise PEACEFUL MISSION 2021.

The exercise hosted by Russia is being held in the Orenburg Region of southwest Russia from September 13 to 25, 2021.

SCO Peaceful Mission is a Multilateral & Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise.

**Quick Fact:** The full form of SCO is Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

#### **4. Environment**

##### **RMI India launches 'Shoonya' campaign**

NITI Aayog in association with RMI India has launched the 'Shoonya' campaign recently.

The Shoonya campaign is an initiative to work with the consumers and industry to promote pollution-free delivery vehicles.

The initiative aims to accelerate the adoption of EVs in the urban delivery segment and raise consumer awareness regarding the benefits of pollution-free delivery.

**Quick Fact:** RMI- Rocky Mountain Institute is based in the US.

#### **5. National Affairs**

##### **Kushinagar Airport declared as Customs Notified Airport**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has declared Kushinagar Airport as a Customs notified airport.

The Kushinagar airport is an international airport spread across an area of 600 acres.

The airport was granted the license to operate international flights by DGCA last February.

**Quick Fact:** The full form of DGCA is the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

#### **6. Summits and Conferences**

##### **India to organise first-ever Global Buddhist Conference in November**

India is set to host the first-ever Global Buddhist Conference on November 19 and 20, 2021 in Nava Nalanda Mahavihara campus, Nalanda, Bihar.

The annual academic conference is being organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

The Global Buddhist Conference focuses on making India the center of Buddhism by promoting Buddhist activities.

#### **7. Science and Technology**

**SpaceX launches first all-tourist crew into orbit**

The first-ever orbital flight tourist crew Inspiration4 is officially now in orbit.

The passengers will spend three days aboard their 13-foot-wide Crew Dragon capsule in orbit at a 350-mile altitude.

The crew includes 38-year old billionaire Jared Isaacmeane, Hayley Arceneux- childhood cancer survivor, Sian Proctor- geologist, and Chris Sembroski- a Lockheed Martin employee.

**September 18th****1. National Affairs****MyGov India launches Planetarium Innovation Challenge**

MyGov India has launched the 'Planetarium Innovation Challenge for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs.

The planetarium challenge was launched to bring together the tech firms and start-ups to build an indigenous planetariums system software.

The first, second, and third winners under this contest will respectively get cash prizes of five lakh, three lakh, and two lakh rupees.

**Quick Fact:** MyGov is a citizen engagement platform launched by the central government on July 26, 2014.

**2. Economy****Indian Railways launches 'Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana'**

Indian Railways leaped the advancement of Skill India Mission by launching the 'Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY)' under PMKVY.

RKVY was launched by the Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw.

The Mission will provide railway entry-level training in industry-relevant skills with the help of 75 Railway training institutes across India.

**Quick Fact:** The Indian Railways was founded on 8 May 1845.

**3. Science and Technology****ISRO to develop reusable GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle**

ISRO is working on technologies to develop a reusable GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle.



The new technology will help ISRO to land its GSLV Mk-III launch vehicles vertically similar to what Elon Musk's SpaceX is doing.

The GSLV Mk-III was chosen as the launch vehicle for the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft and is a three-stage heavy-lift launch vehicle.

**Quick Fact:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was founded by Vikram Sarabhai.

#### **4. Defense**

##### **Ministry of Defense constitutes a High Level Expert Committee for NCC**

The Ministry of Defense has constituted a 15 member High-Level Expert Committee for a comprehensive review of the National Cadet Corps (NCC).

The Chairperson of the committee is former MP Baijayant Panda.

The committee will suggest measures to empower NCC cadets to contribute more effectively towards nation-building.

**Quick Fact:** The National Cadet Corps (NCC) was founded in 1948.

#### **5. Summits and Conferences**

##### **15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers meeting**

The 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting has been conducted virtually with Krishnan Pal Gurjar, Minister of State for Power.

The theme of the meeting is "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper".

The meeting aimed to coordinate efforts of the ASEAN countries in pursuing the goal of energy security and energy transition.

#### **6. National Affairs**

##### **PFC issues India's first-ever Euro Green Bond**

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has successfully issued its maiden Euro 300 million 7-year Euro Bond issuance.

It is the first-ever Euro-dominated green-bond issuance from India since 2017.

PFC is an Indian financial institution under the Ministry of Power.

**Quick Fact:** Ravinder Singh Dhillon is the Chairman and MD of PFC.

#### **7. Miscellaneous**

##### **Ayaan Shankta named as '2021 International Young Eco-Hero'**

A 12-year-old environmental activist from Mumbai, Maharashtra, Ayaan Shankta has been named '2021 International Young Eco-Hero'.

He won the third prize under the age group of 8-14 for his project 'Conservation and rehabilitation of Powai Lake'.

The award was presented by 'The Action for Nature', a San Francisco-based NGO that recognizes young people for their environmental achievements.

## September 20th

### 1. Government Schemes

#### **"Ek Pahal Campaign" launched for Justice delivery at doorstep**

The Ministry of Law and Justice has launched a pan-India Special Campaign called 'Ek Pahal Drive' for Justice Delivery at the doorstep.

The campaign has been launched by the Department of Justice and NALSA.

The initiative aims to encourage mass registration under Tele-Law

**Quick Fact:** The first Law and Justice Minister of independent India was B. R. Ambedkar.

### 2. International Affairs

#### **Two Indian projects to get the Earthshot Prize**

Two Indian projects have been selected for the environment prize called 'Earth shot Prize'.

One of the selected projects is a Solar-Powered Ironing Cart designed by a 14-year-old Tamil Nadu school girl and the second is an Agricultural Waste recycling Concept developed by an entrepreneur from Delhi.

The prize is conferred annually to five winners for their solutions that substantially help the environment.

**Quick Fact:** The first-ever Environment Prize called 'Earthshot Prize' was launched by Britain's Prince William and David Attenborough in 2020.

### 3. State Affairs

#### **PEDA inks pact with CESL for EV charging stations**

Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) has signed a MoU with CESL for installing public charging stations for electric vehicles in Punjab.

The MoU was signed by the CEO of PEDA, Navjot Pal Singh Randhawa.

The collaboration seeks to expand the EV transition portfolio providing accessible and affordable charging infrastructure in the state of Punjab.

**Quick Fact:** Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) is a subsidiary of Energy Efficient Services Ltd. (EESL).

#### 4. Economy

##### **NITI Aayog partners with Byju's to provide free education in Aspirational Districts**

NITI Aayog has partnered with Byju's in a bid to provide free access to education to students in 112 Aspirational districts in India.

The project consists of two main components- Byju's Career Plus program and the Voluntary program.

Under the partnership, Byju's will provide free access to its high-quality tech-driven learning program to students ensuring quality education.

**Quick Fact:** Byju's was founded in 2011 by Byju Raveendran and Divya Gokulnath.

#### 5. Defense

##### **Indo-Nepal joint military exercise 'Surya Kiran-XV' to begin at Pithoragarh**

The 15th-edition of Indo-Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise 'Surya Kiran' will be held from September 20 at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

The armies of both nations would share their experiences of various counter-insurgency operations improving bilateral relations and strengthening traditional friendship.

The previous edition of 'Surya Kiran' was conducted in Nepal in the year 2019.

**Quick Fact:** Kathmandu is the Capital of Nepal.

#### 6. Summits and Conferences

##### **PM Narendra Modi virtually addresses 21st SCO Meeting**

The 21st meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State was held in a Hybrid format in Dushanbe, Tajikistan recently.

The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon.

The Indian delegation was led by PM Narendra Modi who participated virtually while offline representation was carried out by S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs.

#### 7. Miscellaneous

## **Pulitzer Prize-winner Jhumpa Lahiri to launch new book 'Translating Myself and Others'**

The Pulitzer prize-winning noted fiction writer, Jhumpa Lahiri is all set to launch her new book titled 'Translating Myself and Other'.

The book will be a collection of essays that reflect Lahiri's experiences on the meaning of translation, translating her writings, and writing across languages.

The book will be published by Princeton University Press.

## **September 21st**

### **1. State Affairs**

#### **Charanjit Singh Channi to be the next CM of Punjab**

Charanjit Singh Channi, the current education minister has been selected by the Congress Party as the next Chief Minister of Punjab.

Charanjit has been elected as the leader of the Punjab Congress Legislative Party (PCLP) and is an MLA from the Chamkaur Sahib assembly constituency.

The appointment comes after CM Captain Amarinder Singh resigned following months of conflict with PPCC Chief Navjot Singh Sindhu.

**Quick Fact:** Banwarilal Purohit is the Governor of Punjab.

### **2. Person in News**

#### **Fino Payments Bank appoints Pankaj Tripathi as Brand Ambassador**

Fino Payments Bank (FPBL) has appointed Indian actor Pankaj Tripathi as its first Brand Ambassador for two years.

Pankaj Tripathi will be the face of Fino Payments Bank's marketing campaigns across various platforms to promote its products and services.

The actor will be the face of Fino Bank's first campaign titled 'Fikar Not'.

**Quick Fact:** Rishi Gupta is the MD & CEO of Fino Payments Bank.

### **3. Sports**

#### **Harmilan Kaur Bains sets new record in 1500 m race at the National Level**

Harmilan Kaur Bains of Punjab has created a new national record in the women's 1500m race by clocking 4:05.39 bagging a gold medal.

The 60th national Open Athletics Championships took place in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Hanamkonda in Telangana.

The 23-year-old athlete has now erased the record of 19-year-old Sunita Rani in 1500 m who clocked 4:06.03 at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan.

#### **4. Sports**

##### **Pankaj Advani wins Asian Snooker Championship 2021**

India's Pankaj Advani won the Asian Snooker Championship 2021 by defeating Amir Sarkhosh.

Pankaj has won this title for a second consecutive time and was the winner of the last Asian Snooker Championship 2019.

Pankaj became the only player who won the titles in all forms of billiards, snooker, 6Reds, and 10Reds competitions held in 2019.

**Quick Fact:** Snooker was first played in 1875 in India.

#### **5. Economy**

##### **NPCI partners with Liquid Group to enable UPI QR-based payments acceptance**

NPCI International Payments Ltd. has partnered with Liquid Group Pvt. Ltd. to enable UPI QR-based payments acceptance in 10 markets across North Asia and Southeast Asia.

The partnership will help BHIM App users to make UPI-QR-based payments in the 10 markets of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan.

The strategic partnership with Liquid Group is a formidable step towards achieving our vision of taking robust payment solutions to the global market.

**Quick Fact:** Dilip Asbe is the MD and CEO of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

#### **6. Science and Technology**

##### **NITI Aayog tie-up with ISRO, CBSE launch 'Space Challenge' for school students**

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with ISRO and CBSE has launched the 'Space Challenge' for students across India.

The challenge aims to enable innovation among young school students to create something in the space sector.

NITI Aayog is running initiatives like Atal Incubation Centres and ATLs to promote entrepreneurship and innovation.

**Quick Fact:** The World Space week 2021 is observed annually from October 4-10.

## 7. Miscellaneous

### India's first indigenous cruise liner launched by IRCTC

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has joined hands with Cordelia Cruises for the promotion and marketing of the first indigenous luxury cruise in India.

The cruise will take passengers to some of the most popular Indian and international tourist destinations such as Goa, Diu, Kochi, the Lakshadweep Islands, and Sri Lanka.

Cordelia Cruises is one of India's premium cruise liners and aspires to promote and drive the cruise culture in India.

## September 22nd

### 1. Sports

#### R Raja Rithvik becomes India's 70th Chess Grandmaster

17-year old R Raja Rithvik hailing from Warangal has become India's 70th and newest chess Grandmaster.

He achieved his third and final norm at First Saturday Chess Tournaments in Budapest, Hungary to enter the GM club.

Raja touched the magical 2500 Elo mark in the fourth round of the tournament after beating Vaclav Finek.

**Quick Fact:** Banwarilal Purohit is the Governor of Punjab.

### 2. Economy

#### HDFC bank ties up with Paytm to launch co-branded credit cards

HDFC Bank has partnered with Paytm to offer co-branded credit cards on the Visa platform for businesspeople, millennials, and merchants.

The collaboration is part of the strategies of HDFC Bank to regain its lost market share in the credit card space.

The co-branded credit cards will be launched in October 2021.

**Quick Fact:** Hasmukhbhai Parekh and Sashidhar Jagdishan founded HDFC Bank in 1994.

### 3. Economy

#### **Ford Motor to close manufacturing plants in India**

Ford Motor has announced to close the manufacturing plants in India due to the loss of more than USD 2 billion over the past 10 years.

Ford has two integrated manufacturing facilities in India one in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and another at Sanand, Gujarat.

Ford will now offer only high-end cars via Completely Built-Up (CBU) Route.

**Quick Fact:** Ford is the second-largest family-owned company in the world.

### 4. National Affairs

#### **Capacity Building Program launched for Women students**

National Commission for Women (NCW) has launched a country-wide capacity building and personality development program for women UG and PG students.

NCW has collaborated with Central and State universities for organizing sessions to prepare women students to enter the job market.

The first program has been launched with the Central University of Haryana.

**Quick Fact:** Rekha Sharma is the Chairperson of NCW.

### 5. Miscellaneous

#### **TRIFED collaborates with Big Basket to promote the General sale of products**

TRIFED has signed an MoU with Big Basket for the promotion and sale of Organics, natural Van Dhan products, and TRIFOOD products.

TRIFED has also joined hands with PurtyAgrotech of Jharkhand to promote the art of growing pearls among other tribal entrepreneurs across India.

Both the initiatives will be operational from 2nd October this year.

**Quick Fact:** The full form of TRIFED is the 'Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India'.

### 6. Sports

#### **MS Dhoni named Mentor for Indian Men's Team for T20 World Cup 2021**

Mahindra Singh Dhoni has been named as the Mentor of the Indian cricket Men's team for ICC T20 World Cup 2021.

T20 World Cup will be played in Oman and UAE from October 18 onwards.



This will be the first stint of Dhoni as a member of the support staff of the Indian cricket team.

**Quick Fact:** Dhoni is the first wicket-keeper to effect 100 stumpings in ODI cricket.

## 7. Defense

### Indian and Indonesian Navy participate in the 3rd edition of 'Samudra Shakti'

The 3rd edition of Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' is scheduled from September 20 to Sep 22, 2021.

Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmat arrived in Jakarta, Indonesia, and will be taking part in the exercise.

The exercise aims to enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between the two navies.

## September 25th

### 1. Economy

#### Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission to be announced

PM Narendra Modi is set to announce the rollout of the Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission (PM-DHM) across the nation on September 27th, 2021.

The scheme will be launched to harness technology to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency of healthcare delivery across India.

A Unique digital health ID and a National digital health ecosystem will be created under the scheme.

**Quick Fact:** Narendra Modi was born on September 17, 1950.

### 2. Environment

#### Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development report released

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has published a new report titled "Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development: Demonstrating the Interconnections".

The report highlights seven climate indicators impacting the SDGs- CO2 concentration, temperature, ocean acidification, ocean heat content, sea-ice extent, glacier mass balance, and sea-level rise.

The report aims to demonstrate the connections between global climate and SDGs.

**Quick Fact:** WMO was founded on 23rd March 1950.

### 3. Defense

#### Defense Ministry places 7500 crore order for 118 tanks

The Ministry of Defense has placed an order worth INR 7,523 crore to procure 118 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) Arjun for the Indian Army.

The Defense Ministry placed this order with Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Chennai to supply the 118 Arjun Mk-1A tanks.

The tank has been designed and developed by the Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

**Quick Fact:** The motto of DRDO is 'Strength's origin is in Science'.

### 4. International Affairs

#### WFP-ICRISAT sign agreement on Food Security

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have signed an agreement on Food Security.

The MoU was signed on programs and research to improve food, nutrition security, and livelihoods across India.

WFP is a food-assistance wing of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization.

**Quick Fact:** WFP was founded in 1961 and is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

### 5. International Affairs

#### UNICEF's 'Fed to Fail?' Report

UNICEF released its new report titled "Fed to Fail? The crisis of children's diets in early life" recently.

According to the report, children aged under 2 are not getting the food or nutrients they need to thrive and grow well.

Rising poverty, conflict, inequality, climate-related disasters, and health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic are contributing to the nutrition crisis among those children.

### 6. International Affairs

#### PM Modi to address UN general Assembly in New York today

PM Narendra Modi will address the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in New York recently.

This will be the 7th address to the General Assembly in person.

The United Nations General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.

**Quick Fact:** Abdulla Shahid is the President of UNGA.

## 7. State Affairs

### World's Highest EV Charging Station inaugurated at Kaza in Himachal Pradesh

The world's highest EV charging station has been inaugurated in Kaza village of Lahaul and Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh.

The electric vehicle charging station is set up at a height of 500 ft.

The objective of this initiative is to check vehicular pollution and promote electric vehicles for a clean and green environment.

**Quick Fact:** Devbumi and Veerbhumi is the nickname of Himachal Pradesh.

## September 27th

### 1. National Affairs

#### Supreme Court introduces FASTER system

The Supreme Court of India has introduced an electronic system named FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records).

The FASTER system will be used to transfer e-authentication copies from courts to prisons.

Under the FASTER system, courts can transfer e-authentication copies of bail orders, stay orders, interim orders, and proceedings through secured e-communication to duty officers at the prison.

**Quick Fact:** The 48th Chief Justice of India is Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana.

### 2. Summits and Conferences

#### Narendra Modi addresses 76th UNGA in New York

PM Narendra Modi addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York recently.

He was the first world leader to address the 76th session of UNGA.

The theme of the 2021 session of UNGA was "Building resilience through hope to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainability, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of the people and revitalize the UN".

**Quick Fact:** Volkan Bozkir is the current President of UNGA.

### 3. Economy

#### **HDFC Bank is the most outstanding company in India**

According to the Asiamoney 2021 Poll, HDFC Bank has received the most votes listed among the listed companies in India declaring it the most outstanding company in India.

HDFC Bank has also received the title of the 'Most Outstanding Company in India- Banking Sector'.

The poll, known as Asia's Outstanding Companies Poll, is designed to acknowledge listed companies that have excelled in areas such as financial performance, management team excellence, investor relations, and CSR initiatives.

**Quick Fact:** HDFC Bank was founded in 1994.

### 4. Sports

#### **Lewis Hamilton wins the Russian Grand Prix 2021**

Lewis Hamilton has won the Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix 2021.

This is the 100th Grand Prix win and his fifth win of the season and his first since the British Grand Prix in July.

Max Verstappen came second while Carlos Sainz Jr. came third in the Russian Grand Prix 2021.

**Quick Fact:** Chase Carey is the CEO of Formula 1.

### 5. State Affairs

#### **Naga Cucumber from Nagaland gets Geographical Identification (GI) tag**

Nagaland's "sweet cucumber" was awarded a geographical identification (GI) tags as an agricultural product under provisions of The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

The cucumber is one of the most important crops in the Northeast region

Nagaland has the fifth-highest cultivation of cucumber and ranks third in production.

### 6. Sports

#### **Jyothi Surekha Vennam wins silver medal at the World Archery Championship**

Jyothi Surekha Vennam has won the silver medal in the women's compound event at the World Archery Championship held in Yankton.

Sara Lopez of Colombia bagged the gold medal by defeating Jyothi by 146-144 in the finals.

Jyoti Surekha won two bronze medals at the 2011 Asian Archery Championship.

**Quick Fact:** The first Asian Archery Championship was held in India.

## 7. Person in News

### **Noted women's rights activist and author, Kamla Bhasin passes away**

Women's rights activist and noted author, Kamla Bhasin (75 years) passed away battling cancer in Delhi.

She has authored several books, especially on gender theory and feminism.

She was best known for her work with Sangat- A Feminist Network and for her poem Kyunki main ladki hoon, Mujhe padhna hai.

## September 28th

### 1. Summits and Conferences

#### **Amit Shah addresses first 'National Cooperative Conference'**

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah has inaugurated and addressed the first-ever National Cooperative Conference at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.

The conference was India's first cooperative conference to provide a platform for accelerating and strengthening Indian cooperatives on the global stage.

The conference was organized jointly by the IFFCO, National Cooperative Federation of India, Amul, Sahakar Bharti, NAFED, KRIBHCO, and all cooperatives together.

### 2. Government Schemes

#### **MoRD and NIRD&PR present Hunarbaaz Award**

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) presented 'Hunarbaaz Award' to 75 diyangan candidates.

A virtual award ceremony was organized by NIRDPR with MoRD, in collaboration with the State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) and Rural Self-employment Training Institutes.

CEOs of SRLMs and Directors of RSETIs presented the awards at respective states to the specially-abled achievers

**Quick Fact:** Giriraj Singh is the current Minister of Rural Development.

### 3. Science and Technology

#### **IIT Delhi launches Center on Quantum Technologies**

IIT Delhi has set up a 'Centre of Excellence on Quantum Technologies' in a bid to conduct research activities in the related fields.

The CoE will bring synergy and coherence in the activities that are being carried out at IIT Delhi.

The CoE will focus on select thrust areas including quantum computing, quantum sensing & metrology, quantum communication, and quantum materials & devices.

**Quick Fact:** Prof. Humayun Kabir is the founder of the Indian Institute of Technologies Delhi.

### 4. Economy

#### **Weaver Services and Design Resource Center to be set up in Kullu**

Union Minister for Commerce, Industry, and Textiles, Piyush Goyal has announced to set up a 'Weaver Services and Design Resource Center' in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh.

The center will encourage attractive handicraft products of the state and provide a better platform to export these products to the International market.

The program was organized under 'Seva and Samarpan Abhiyan' to commemorate the golden jubilee year of statehood of Himachal Pradesh.

**Quick Fact:** Chail Cricket Ground in Himachal Pradesh is the highest cricket ground in the world.

### 5. International Affairs

#### **Switzerland legalizes same-sex marriage**

The voter in Switzerland has decided to legalize same-sex marriage making it one of the last countries in Western Europe to do so.

The law also grants lesbian couples to get access to sperm banks as well as allows same-sex couples to adopt children.

Same-sex couples in Switzerland have been able to enter into a civil partnership since 2007.

**Quick Facts:** Italy is the only country in Western Europe that does not allow marriage between same-sex couples.

### 6. National Affairs

#### **Tourism Ministry launches NIDHI 2.0 and India Tourism Statistics**

The Ministry of Tourism has launched NIDHI 2.0 and 'India Tourism Statistics- At a Glance, 2021' recently.

The Ministry of Tourism will also sign a MOU with UNEP and the Responsible Tourism Sector of India to actively promote and support sustainable alternatives in the tourism sector.

The Ministry of Tourism is the apex body for the formulation and administration of the rules, regulations, and laws relating to the development and promotion of tourism in India.

## 7. Sports

### Union Minister flags off 2nd Ultimate Ladakh Cycling Challenge at Leh

Union Minister Anurag Thakur has flagged off the second edition of the Ultimate Ladakh Cycling Challenge at Leh, Ladakh.

The challenge has been organized by Ladakh Police in coordination with the Cycling Federation of India at 11,000 ft above sea level.

The challenge is also a part of the Fit India Campaign "Let's cycle, let's stay fit, let's keep India fit. If the youth is fit, India is fit".

## September 29th

### 1. Government Schemes

#### Seed Capital Module launched by the Food Processing and Housing Ministry

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries along with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the Seed Capital Module under the PMFME Scheme.

The module has been launched on Deendayal Atyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission MIS Portal for urban SHGs working in the food processing sector.

The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme.

**Quick Fact:** Pashupati Kumar Paras is the Minister of Food Processing Industries.

### 2. Defense

#### DRDO conducts maiden flight test of Akash Prime Missile off Odisha Coast

DRDO has successfully conducted a maiden flight test of the new version of Akash Missile named 'Akash Prime'.

The test was conducted from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.

The Akash Prime is equipped with an indigenous active Radio Frequency (RF) seeker for improved accuracy.

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

### 3. National Affairs

#### **Training and Capacity Building Program launched by NCW**

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has launched country-wide training and capacity-building program for women in dairy farming.

The program has been launched to empower rural women and make them financially independent.

The first program under the project was organized on 'Value Added Dairy Products' for women SHGs at the Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Hisar in association with Haryana State Rural Livelihood Mission.

**Quick Fact:** NCW was formed in 1992.

### 4. Person in News

#### **Gurbirpal Singh appointed as the Director-General of NCC**

Lt. General Gurbirpal Singh has been appointed as the 34th Director-General of the National Cadet Corps recently.

Gurbirpal Singh has succeeded Tarun Kumar Aich as the Director-General of NCC.

Gurbirpal was commissioned into the Parachute Regiment in 1987 and commanded a Special Forces Battalion in Kashmir and the United Nations Interim Forces.

**Quick Fact:** NCC is headquartered in New Delhi.

### 5. Miscellaneous

#### **Magnus Carlsen appointed as the Global Ambassador of Mastercard**

Norwegian Chess Grandmaster Magnus Carlsen was appointed as the Global Brand Ambassador of Mastercard.

Carlsen has joined other competitive player lineup of ambassadors like Lionel Messi, Naomi Osaka, Crystal Dunn, and Dan Carter.

Mastercard has also joined Meltwater Champions Chess Tour as an official partner in its first sponsorship move into chess.

### 6. State Affairs

#### **Uttarakhand Forest Department sets up the salesrecognizefirst Palmetum of the state**

The Uttarakhand Forest Department inaugurated the first Palmetum of the state recently in Haldwani, Nainital.



The Palmetum is the biggest one in North India comprising 110 species of palms.

The Palmetum was developed over three years under the CAMPA scheme for INR 16 lakhs.

**Quick Fact:** Trachycarpus Takil (Takil Palm) is the only Palm that can survive sub-zero temperature.

## 7. Science and Technology

### Facebook Inc. to invest USD 50 million to develop METAVERSE

Facebook Inc is set to invest \$50 million to partner with organizations to build metaverse.

METAVERSE is a digital world where people can use different devices to communicate and move in a virtual environment.

New XR Programs and Research Fund will invest the money globally in two years to build inclusive and empowering metaverse technologies.

**Quick Fact:** Facebook Inc. is headquartered in Menlo Park, CA.

## September 30th

### 1. Science and Technology

#### Amazon Future Engineer Programme launched in India

E-commerce giant, Amazon India announced the launch of "Amazon Future Engineer" recently.

The program will provide quality computer science education as well as career opportunities for students from underserved communities.

Amazon is working in collaboration with its global knowledge partner Code.org to implement the program.

**Quick Fact:** Andy Jassy is the CEO of Amazon.

### 2. International Affairs

#### France-Greece sign defense deal

France and Greece have signed a multi-billion-euro defense deal to boost the defense capabilities

The deal includes Athens' decision to buy three French warships under the strategy of boosting its defense capacities across the Eastern Mediterranean amid recurring tensions with Turkey.

President of France Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced the defense and security partnership.

**Quick Fact:** Athens is the Capital of Greece.

### 3. Sports

#### **Sania Mirza-Shuai Zhang wins 2021 Ostrava Women's Doubles Title**

The Indo-Chinese duo of Sania Mirza and Shuai Zhang clinched the Women's doubles title at the 2021 Ostrava Open WTA 500 tournament In Czech Republic.

The duo won the title by 6-3, 6-2 against Kaitlyn Christian (US) and Erin Routliffe (New Zealand).

Anett Kontaveit won the maiden 2021 Ostrava Open Women's singles WTA 500 title.

**Quick Fact:** Women's Tennis Association is located in St. Petersburg, Florida.

### 4. National Affairs

#### **Union Agriculture Ministry launches Amul Honey**

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the 'Amul Honey' product of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation.

The launch saw the importance of the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission for doubling the income of farmers and beekeepers with a budget of INR 500 crores.

Due to the major concern of pure honey, 5 large-scale Regional Honey Testing Labs and 100 Mini Honey Testing Labs are being set up in India.

**Quick Fact:** Tribhuvandas Patel is the Founder of Amul.

### 5. Art and Culture

#### **Sojat Mehndi from Rajasthan and Judima rice wine from Assam gets GI tag**

Home-made rice wine from Assam, Judima, and Sojat Mehndi (Henna) from Rajasthan has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Judima is a local fermented drink made from rice and is brewed by the Dimasa community in Assam.

Sojat tehsil of Pali district, Rajasthan has suitable geographical structure, topography, and drainage system, climate, soil for naturally cultivating Mehndi leaves crop.

### 6. National Affairs

#### **PM Modi launches 35 crop varieties to tackle climate change and malnutrition**

Pm Modi has dedicated 35 varieties of crops with special traits to the nation.

35 varieties include drought-tolerant varieties of chickpea, wilt and sterility mosaic resistant pigeon pea, early maturing soybean, disease-resistant varieties of rice and biofortified varieties of wheat, etc.

PM Modi has also dedicated the newly constructed campus of the National Institute of Biotic Stress Management Raipur.

## **7. Science and Technology**

### **North Korea successfully tests newly developed hypersonic missile**

North Korea has tested a newly developed Hwasong-8 type hypersonic missile towards the sea off its east coast, Jagang Province.

Hwasong series missiles use liquid propellant engines.

The test is a first of a liquid propellant missile in North Korea since November 2017.

**Quick Fact:** Kim Jong-Un is the Prime Minister of North Korea.

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