

Eazyprep

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

COMPILATION

OCTOBER 2021

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October 1st

1. Sports

United States wins 2021 Ryder Cup Golf Tournament

The United States has won the 2021 Ryder Cup defeating Team Europe with a 19-9 record victory.

The 2021 Ryder Cup is the 43rd edition of the Ryder Cup Golf Tournament held at Whistling Straits, Haven, Wisconsin in the US.

Ryder Cup is a biennial men's golf competition held between teams from Europe and the United States.

Quick Fact: Mount Etna in Italy is the second most active volcano in Europe.

2. National Affairs

Union Minister launches Amrit Grand Challenge Program- JanCARE

Union Minister Jitendra Singh has launched Amrit Grand Challenge Program titled 'JanCARE' as a nationwide 'Discover-Design- Scale' program.

The Grand Challenge aims to identify 75 Start-Ups and entrepreneurs who come out with innovative ideas and solutions for India's healthcare challenges.

The challenge has been launched Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), NASSCOM.

3. Miscellaneous

Yemeni organisation wins 2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

The humanitarian organization from Yemen named 'Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development' has been declared as the winner of the 2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award.

The award is offered to individuals, groups, or organizations for going above and beyond the call of duty to protect refugees.

The organization was founded in 2017 by Ameen Jubran.

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

4. Defense

Indian and Australian Navy signs ToR for bilateral cooperation

Indian Navy has signed Terms of Reference (ToR) with the Australian Navy for the conduct of navy to navy talks.

The talks will be conducted under the 'Joint Guidance for the India-Australia Navy to Navy Relationship' document framework.

This is the first such document signed by the Indian Navy with any country.

Quick Fact: The continent of Australia is sometimes also referred to as 'Sahul'.

5. Economy

NPCI partners with YES Bank to launch RuPay 'On-the-Go' payment solution

NPCI has partnered with YES Bank to launch 'RuPay On-the-Go' contactless payments solutions

The wearable payment solution will enable customers to make small and large value transactions from accessories that they wear every day.

The solution is based on a simple "Tap, pay, go" mechanism and launched in association with Neokred.

Quick Facts: Abhaya Prasad Hota is the CEO of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

6. National Affairs

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launches 'Elder-Line'

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched the first Pan-India helpline for senior citizens 'Elder-Line'.

The helpline will allow senior citizens to connect and share their concerns, get information and guidance on problems they face on a day-to-day basis.

The technical partners are Tata Trusts and NSE Foundation.

7. Science and Technology

NASA's Lucy Mission to Jupiter

The American Space Agency, NASA is set to send its first spacecraft to study Jupiter's Trojan asteroids.

The spacecraft will be launched from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida on October 16, 2021.

Mission Lucy has been launched to investigate the group of rocky bodies that are circling the Sun in two swarms- one preceding Jupiter and the other trailing behind it.

Quick Fact: Dwight D. Eisenhower is the founder of NASA.

October 2nd

1. Government Schemes

Union Minister Giriraj Singh launches People's Plan Campaign 2021

The Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Giriraj Singh Chauhan has launched the 'People's Plan Campaign 2021- Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas' recently.

The campaign will feature activities to instill a sense of camaraderie and commitment in the citizens towards a common goal of village development.

A Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard to ensure maximum participation of citizens was also launched.

Quick Fact: The term Gram Sabha is defined in the Constitution of India under Article 243 (b).

2. National Affairs

AYUSH Ministry launches 'Bal Raksha Kit'

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) under the AYUSH ministry has developed an immunity-boosting kit 'Bal Raksha Kit'.

The kit developed keeping the third wave of COVID-19 in mind is an immunity-boosting kit to protect children up to the age of 16.

The kit has been manufactured by Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL) in Uttarakhand.

Quick Fact: AYUSH- Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homeopathy.

3. Government Schemes

PM launches Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0

PM Narendra Modi has launched the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 along with the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0.

The schemes were launched at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.

The missions will help in achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2030 targets.

4. Person in News

Dr. Rukmini Banerji awarded the 2021 Yidan Prize

India -based Dr. Rukmini Banerji was awarded the 2021 Yidan Prize recently.

Apart from her, US-based Professor Eric Hanushek was also conferred with the prestigious Yidan Prize 2021.

Yidan Prize established by the Yidan Prize Foundation in 2016 is an education award that recognizes individuals who have contributed towards education research and development.

Quick Fact: Dr. Rukmini Banerji is the CEO of Pratham Education Foundation.

5. Art and Culture

Festival of Dance and Music Nata Sankirtana started in Manipur

Nata- Sankirtana festival was started at the Mandap of Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy (JNMDA), Imphal recently.

The festival is a three-day annual display of dance and music.

In classical Ragas, Nata Sankirtana is a hymn of Lord Krishna that synthesizes several indigenous rhythms.

Quick Facts: UNESCO had recognized Manipur Nata Sankirtana in 2013.

6. State Affairs

Rebecca V Suchiang appointed as the Chief Secretary of Meghalaya

Rebecca Vanessa Suchiang (1989 batch IAS officer) has taken over the State Chief Secretary of Meghalaya.

She is the first-ever native female Chief Secretary appointed by the Meghalaya Government.

Rebecca has succeeded M.S. Rao who took charge on 31st December 2019.

Quick Fact: Conrad Kongkal Sangma is the CM of Meghalaya.

7. Miscellaneous

Mukesh Ambani tops Harun India Rich List 2021 for the 10th straight year

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has topped the IIFL Wealth Harun India Rich List for the 10th consecutive year with a total net worth of INR 7,18,000 crore.

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani is in the second spot with a net worth of INR 5,05,900 crores followed by Shiv Nadar and the Family of HCL tech.

Harun India Rich List 2021 featured 1,007 individuals across 119 cities and indicated that India has 237 billionaires compared to 58 last year.

Quick Fact: Dwight D. Eisenhower is the founder of NASA.

4th October

1. Defense

India-Sri Lanka to take part in 'Mitra Shakti 21' Exercise

India and Sri Lanka are set to participate in the bilateral joint exercise called Mitra Shakti.

The 8th edition of the annual exercise will be held at Combat Training School, Ampara in Sri Lanka.

In the joint exercise, all arms contingent of 120 personnel from the Indian Army will participate along with the battalion of Sri Lanka.

Quick Fact: India is separated by Sri Lanka by the Palk Strait.

2. Sports

India wins Bronze at Asian Table Tennis Championships

The Indian Men's table tennis team has won the bronze medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships recently.

The Indian team won bronze after losing to South Korea by 0-3 in the semi-finals.

The Asian Table tennis Championship is a biennial table tennis tournament and is regarded as a continental championship by ITTF.

Quick Fact: The full form of ITTF is the "International Table Tennis Federation".

3. Economy

World Bank provides USD 150 million to Chennai's Sustainable Urban Services

The World Bank has approved about USD 150 million programs to support Chennai's Sustainable Urban Services and to turn it into a world-class city.

The program will fulfill Tamil Nadu's vision of making Chennai a greener, liveable, and much climate-resilient city.

The partnership will strengthen four key urban services- Water supply & sewerage, Mobility, Health, and Solid Waste Management.

Quick Facts: The World Bank has two institutions- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and the International Development Association (IDA).

4. International Affairs

Piyush Goyal inaugurates Indian Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020

Union Minister Piyush Goyal has inaugurated a state-of-the-art 8750 sq. meter Indian pavilion at the Dubai Expo 2020.

The hi-tech Indian Pavilion is a civilization confluence of ancient Indian as well as future India.

The pavilion has been installed with the theme of 'India on the move' and 'India the diverse'.

Quick Fact: Dubai is the most populous city in the United City of Emirates (UAE).

5. National Affairs

World's Largest Khadi National flag hoisted in Leh, Ladakh

World's Largest National Flag made up of Khadi was installed in Leh, Ladakh on the occasion of the 152nd Birth Anniversary of Mahatama Gandhi.

The Indian tri-color flag is 225-feet long and 150-feet wide weighing around 1,000 kgs.

The flag has been made by Khadi Dyers and Printers based in Mumbai.

Quick Facts: The current Indian tri-color was designed by Pingali Venkayya.

6. Miscellaneous

Delhi-based LIFE organisation to receive 2021 Right Livelihood Award

A Delhi-based environmental organization 'Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)' has been facilitated with the 2021 Right Livelihood Award.

LIFE was awarded for its grassroots approach of empowering vulnerable communities to protect their livelihood.

The award is also known as Sweden's alternative noble prize, comes with a cash prize of 1 million Swedish crowns (USD 115,000).

7. Environment

Clean India Programme: A month-long nationwide programme

Union Minister Anurag Thakur has launched a month-long nationwide cleanliness drive 'Clean India Programme' as part of Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav.

The program is aimed at creating awareness and mobilizing people to clean waste and will run till October 31st.

The program propagates the mantra of Clean India: Safe India.

Quick Fact: Anurag Thakur is the current Minister of Sports, Youth Affairs, and the Minister of Information and Broadcasting in the Second Modi ministry.

5th October

1. Economy

The first consignment of Kashmir walnuts flagged off

The first consignment of Kashmiri walnuts was flagged off from Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir recently.

The project has been taken under the "One District, One Product" of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The consignment was sent recognizing the large-scale import of walnuts into India despite the huge availability of Kashmir walnuts.

Quick Fact: 90% of India's walnut production is from Kashmir.

2. Science and Technology

New drug to treat Covid-19 'Molnupiravir'

Pharma company "Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics" announced the early results of the Phase-3 trials of an anti-viral drug called Molnupiravir.

Molnupiravir has reduced the chances of hospitalization by half among COVID 19 patients with mild or moderate symptoms.

Molnupiravir has been named "EIDD 2801" by the company where 'E' indicates it was developed at Emory University.

Quick Fact: The first known case of COVID-19 was identified in Wuhan, China in 2019.

3. Environment

NOAA report: August 2021 is the 6th warmest in 142 years

NOAA's National Centre for Environmental Information stated that August 2021 was the 6th hottest month on the Earth in 142 years.

Asia had its 2nd warmest August while Africa had its 3rd warmest August.

January-August ranks as the 6th warmest period ever recorded on Earth.

Quick Facts: NOAA- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

4. Environment

Tiger rallies started across 51 reserves

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav started tiger rallies in 18 tiger range States in India.

The tiger rallies were started across 51 reserves as part of "Wildlife Week Celebration" and "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".

The rallies were kicked off with the theme "India for Tigers- A Rally on Wheels".

5. International Affairs

Fumio Kishida elected as the new Prime Minister of Japan

Japan's parliament has elected Fumio Kishida as the new Prime Minister replacing Yoshihide Suga.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party used its majority to formally elect Kishida

A 3rd-generation politician Kishida was first elected to Parliament in 1993 representing Hiroshima.

Quick Facts: Omotenashi is a deep-rooted culture of Japan to wholeheartedly look after guests.

6. State Affairs

Kangana Renaut becomes the brand ambassador of UP's ODOP scheme

The UP Government has named actor Kangana Renaut as the brand ambassador of its ambitious 'One District One Product' program.

UP Government has launched the one district one product program to create product-specific traditional industrial hubs across 75 districts of the State.

CM Yogi Adityanath also presented Kangana with a silver coin that the program organized. The first was used for 'Ram Janm Bhumi Pujan'.

7. Summits and Conferences

Om Birla to participate in the G-20 Speakers Summit in Rome

The 7th G-20 Parliamentary Speakers Summit is scheduled to be held in Rome, Italy.

An 8-member parliamentary delegation from India including Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh will participate in the summit.

Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) will address the Summit.

6th October

1. Defense

'AUSINDEX'- India, Australia participate in the 4th edition

India and Australia have participated in the 4th edition of the biennial maritime series 'AUSINDEX'.

The exercise will allow the Australian navy and the Indian Navy to strengthen inter-operability and gain from the best practices.

HMAS Rankin, Royal Australian Air Force P-8A and F-18 aircraft, helicopters of the Australian and Indian Navy participated in this maritime exercise.

Quick Fact: Melbourne has been designated a "City of Literature" by UNESCO.

2. Miscellaneous

Nobel Prize in Physics 2021 declared

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Nobel Prize in Physics 2021.

Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann, Giorgio Parisi have jointly won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Physics.

The prestigious award comes with a gold medal and 10 million Swedish kronor (over USD 1.14 million).

Quick Fact: The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences is located in Stockholm, Sweden.

3. International Affairs

Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed takes oath for a second term

The Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed has been sworn in for a second five-year term.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Meaza Ashenafi administered the oath of office to Abiy Ahmed.

Mr. Abiy won the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize for restoring ties with neighboring Eritrea and for pursuing sweeping political reforms.

Quick Facts: Addis Ababa is the Capital of Ethiopia.

4. State Affairs

CSIR introduces organised cultivation of Dalchini in Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in India to begin the organized cultivation of cinnamon (dalchini).

The introduction has been made by CSIR's Institute of Himalayan Biosource Technology (IHBT) for a pilot basis.

India imports 45,318 tonnes of cinnamon annually from China, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Nepal.

Quick Fact: True cinnamon or *Cinnamomum verum* is grown mainly in Sri Lanka.

5. Science and Technology

Elon Musk's Starlink satellite broadband venture to be headed by Sanjay Bhargava in India

Sanjay Bhargava will be heading the tech billionaire entrepreneur's Starlink satellite broadband venture in India.

Bhargava had earlier worked with Elon Musk as part of the team that had founded the electronic payment firm PayPal.

Bhargava joined SpaceX as Starlink's country director (India).

Quick Facts: SpaceX was founded on 6th May 2002 by Elon Musk.

6. Sports

FC Goa lift maiden Durand Cup football trophy

FC Goa beat Mohammedan Sporting to win their maiden Durand Cup football title.

FC Goa scored 1-0 in the final held at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata.

The 2021 Durand Cup was the 130th edition of the Durand Cup.

Quick Facts: Durand Cup is the oldest football tournament in Asia.

7. Person in News

Smriti Mandhana: First Indian woman to score a Test hundred

Smriti Mandhana has become the first Indian woman to score a Test hundred on Australian soil.

Smriti completed her century with a score of 127 runs with 22 fours and a six to shape up India's first innings on the second day of the first pink ball day and night.

The match was played at the Carrara Oval in Queensland, Australia.

7th October

1. Economy

Heli-borne Survey technology launched by Jitendra Singh

Union Minister Jitendra Singh has launched a state-of-the-art Heli-borne survey technology.

The Heli Survey technology developed by CSIR-NGRI Hyderabad has been launched for groundwater management in arid regions.

In the first phase, the states of Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat, and Haryana are being taken up for the survey.

2. Government Schemes

Delhi government approves Health Information Management System (HIMS) project

The Delhi cabinet has given its financial nod to the ambitious "Health Information Management System (HIMS)" project.

Under the project, each citizen will be provided with a health card that would act as a repository of their medical information.

The health card can be used for everything from the medical history of patients to making appointments from home.

Quick Fact: Delhi was known as Indraprastha where Pandavas used to live.

3. Science and Technology

Indian Scientists develop New Biodegradable Polymer

A team of Indian scientists has developed a non-toxic environmentally friendly biodegradable polymer using guar gum and chitosan.

Guar gum and Chitosan are polysaccharides that are extracted from guar bean and shells of crab and shrimps.

The fabricated polymer composite film has high stability, high mechanical strength as well as excellent resistance towards harsh environmental conditions.

4. Defense

5th edition of India-Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise begins

The Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force will participate in the 5th edition of the India-Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise in the Arabian Sea.

The 3-day exercise JIMEX-21 is being conducted to develop a common understanding of operational procedures and enhance interoperability.

The India Navy will be represented by Guided Missile Stealth Destroyer Kochi and Guided Missile Frigate Teg.

Quick Fact: "Kimigayo" is the Anthem of Japan.

5. International Affairs

'The State of the World's Children 2021' released by Union Health Minister

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has released a report titled "The State of the World's Children 2021: On My Mind: promoting, protecting, and caring for children's mental health" in New Delhi.

The state of the World's Children Report 2021 is UNICEF's global flagship publication.

The report highlights the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of children.

Quick Facts: Henrietta H. Fore is the Head of UNICEF.

6. Sports

Magnus Carlsen wins inaugural Meltwater Champions Chess Tour title

Magnus Carlsen has won the inaugural meltwater Champions Chess Tour (MCCT) claiming the non-fungible token (NFT) trophy and USD 1,00,000 in the finals.

MCCT is a 10-month long online chess tournament held on chess24.com.

MCCI tour comprises 10 tournaments and is the most viewed online chess event in the history of the game.

7. Art and Culture

First consignment of GI tagged Mihidana exported to Bahrain

The first consignment of Geographical Indication (GI) tagged sweet dish Mihidana from Bardhaman, West Bengal has been exported to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The move is to promote indigenous and GI-tagged products of Indian globally.

The dish was exported by APEDA registered M/S DM Enterprises, Kolkata.

Quick Facts: Mihidana sweet dish got the GI tag in 2017.

8th October

Sports

Anshu Malik becomes the first Tanzanian woman wrestler to reach the 2021 World Championship finals

Anshu Malik has become the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the finals of the 2021 World Wrestling Championships.

The 19-year old wrestler hailing from India controlled the semi-final against the European junior champion Solomiia Vynnyk from the beginning.

To date, only four Indian women wrestlers have won medals at the Worlds- Geeta Phogat, Babita Phogat, Pooja Dhanda, and Vinesh Phogat.

Quick Facts: Indian has only one World Champion in wrestling- Sushil Kumar.

Summits and Conferences

Annual International G-20 Conference held

The 13th Annual International G-20 Conference was held recently.

India was represented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

According to FM, the G20 presidency will provide an excellent platform for Indian in putting forward its vision regarding the future reflecting sustainability, innovation, inclusiveness, and justice.

Quick Fact: The Annual International G20 Conference will be co-hosted by Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and ADBI.

Science and Technology

ICMR releases MUDRA Toolbox in 5 Indian languages

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) released the 'Multilingual Dementia Research and Assessment (MUDRA)" Toolbox in five Indian Languages.

The Toolbox has been launched in languages including Hindi, Bengali, Kannada, Telugu, and Malayalam.

The MUDRA Toolbox project is led by the ICMR Neuro-Cognitive Tool Box (ICMR-NCTB) partnership with various medical colleges.

Quick Facts: As per the Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India (ARDSIDementia) more than 5.29 million people are living with dementia in India.

International Affairs

WHO approves World's first Malaria vaccine

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has endorsed the Malaria Vaccine called "RTS, S/AS01".

The RTS, S/AS01 is the world's first vaccine against the mosquito-borne disease which kills around 400,000 people worldwide in a year.

The vaccine was first made in 1987 by the pharmaceutical company GSK.

Quick Fact: R21/Matric-M is the most effective malaria vaccine having an efficacy rate of 77%.

Science and Technology

NASA to launch DART Mission to outer space

NASA has announced plans to launch an "Asteroid killing Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART)" spacecraft on November 24, 2021.

The spacecraft will be launched aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from the Vandenberg Space Force Base, California.

Under this mission, NASA will build advanced tech which would protect the Earth from a hazardous asteroid collision.

Quick Facts: The spacecraft has been built and developed at the John Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL).

State Affairs

Alibaug white onion from MaharashtraTanzanianthe the gets GI tag

Famous Alibaug white onion from Maharashtra's Raigad district has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

The Alibaug will now get global recognition for its unique sweet taste and no-tears factor white onion.

The white onion boosts immunity, helps with insomnia, blood cleaning, and heat-related ailments.

Economy

SBI launches NAV-eCash Card for the Indian Navy

State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with the Indian Navy to launch NAV-eCash for naval personnel on board the country's largest Naval Aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

The card will remove the challenges faced by the personnel on board in handling physical cash during the deployment of the ship at the high seas.

The card will facilitate both online and offline transactions with its dual-chip tech.

9th October

Science and Technology

PM Modi to launch 'Indian Space Association'

PM Narendra Modi is set to digitally launch the 'Indian Space Association' (ISpA) in the coming week.

Nelco (Tata group), Bharti Airtel, Larsen & Toubro, Mapmyindia, OneWeb, Walchandnagar Industries, and Ananth Technology Limited are the founding members of ISpA.

ISpA is the premier industry association of space and satellite companies.

Environment

India joins High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

India has officially joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People at a ceremony held between the French and Indian governments in New Delhi.

HAC for Nature and People is a group of more than 70 countries that encourages the adoption of a global goal to protect at least 30 percent of the world's land and ocean by 2030.

India's goal to join the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People was initiated in January 2021 in Paris at the "One Planet Summit".

Person in News

Nobel Prize in Literature 2021 conferred to Abdulrazak Gurnah

Nobel Prize in Literature 2021 was conferred to Tanzanian novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah.

The novelist was awarded for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of effects of colonialism and fate of refugees in the Gulf between cultures and continents.

The academy has recognized 117 people for their literary creations out of which 16 are women.

Quick Facts: 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature was given to American poet Louise Glück.

Government Schemes

Guidelines for PM-CARES for Children scheme released

The Ministry of Women and Child Development issued a detailed guideline for the "PM CARES for Children Scheme" recently.

The scheme will ensure comprehensive care and protection of those children who lost their parents due to the pandemic.

The scheme will enable their wellbeing by providing them health insurance, empower them with education and equip them with financial support for self-sufficient existence till the age of 23.

Quick Fact: Smriti Zubin Irani is the Minister of Women and Child Development.

Economy

World Bank Projects Indian GDP to grow at 8.3% in FY22

The World Bank has estimated India's real GDP in the current fiscal year 2021-22 to grow by 8.3% in its latest economic report for South Asia.

The World Bank said in its update on South Asia titled, "Shifting Gears: Digitization and Services-led Development".

India's economy, South Asia's largest, is expected to grow by an increase in public investment and incentives to boost manufacturing.

Quick Facts: The World Bank is headquartered in Washington DC, US.

Miscellaneous

Mukesh Ambani tops Forbes India Rich List 2021

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani has topped the Forbes India Rich List for 2021.

Ambani has retained his position as the wealthiest person for the 14th consecutive year on the Forbes India list since 2008 with a net worth of USD 92.7 billion.

The second spot has been retained by Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani followed by Tata tycoon Shiv Nadar claiming the third spot.

Sports

Indian Hockey players sweep FIH Stars Awards

The International Hockey Federation announced that the Indian Hockey Players swept the 2020-21 edition of the FIH Stars Awards.

The Player of the Year is Harmanpreet Singh (Men) and Gurjit Kaur (Women).

The poll saw national associations, represented by their respective national captains and coaches, players, media, and hockey fans casting their votes.

11th October

Sports

Valtteri Bottas wins Turkish Grand Prix 2021

Mercedes racer Valtteri Bottas has won the Formula 1 Turkish Grand Prix 2021 held at Istanbul Park in Tuzla, Istanbul.

This is the first victory of Valtteri Bottas of the F1 season.

The second spot was claimed by Max Verstappen (Red Bull- Netherlands) followed by Sergio Perez (Mexico- Red Bull).

Quick Facts: Mercedes-Benz is headquartered in Stuttgart, Baden-Wurtemberg, Germany.

National Affairs

Global FinTech Hackathon Series 'I-Sprint 21' launched by IFSCA

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has launched the Global FinTech virtual Hackathon Series 'I-Sprint 21'.

The hackathon has been launched in collaboration with GIFT city and NITI Aayog.

The First Sprint of the series is 'Sprint01: BankTech' which focuses on Fintechs for the banking sector.

State Affairs

Chhattisgarh gets its fourth Tiger Reserve

The Guru Ghasidas National Park (Surajpur district) and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary (Koriya district) in Chhattisgarh have been declared as Tiger Reserve.

This is the 4th Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh after Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, and Indravati Reserves.

NTCA's 11th Technical Committee under Section 38V (1) of The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 had proposed to declare these two parks as a Tiger Reserve.

Quick Facts: National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was founded in December 2005.

Defense

6th India-UK joint military exercise 'AJEYA WARRIOR' begins in Uttarakhand

The 6th edition of the annual Joint Military Exercise 'AJEYA WARRIOR' has commenced at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.

The two-week military exercise has been running between India and the United Kingdom since 2013.

The exercise will further strengthen bilateral defense cooperation between the armies of the two countries.

Quick Fact: Pound Sterling is the currency of the United Kingdom.

Economy

Railways launch two long haul freight trains 'Trishul' and 'Garuda'

The Indian Railways has launched two long haul freight trains 'Trishul' and 'Garuda' in South Central Railways (SCR).

'Trishul' will run from Kondapalli station (Vijayawada) to Khurda division (East Coast Railway) while 'Garuda' will run from Raichur of Guntakal division to Manuguru (Secunderabad).

The trains are twice or multiple times longer than the normal composition of freight trains.

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

Miscellaneous

National Mission of Clean Ganga signs MoU for Capacity Building in Faecal Sludge

The National Mission of Clean Ganga has signed an MoU with Water, Sanitisation, and Hygiene (WASH) Institute to conduct a series of training enhancing the quality of service of officials in Urban Local Bodies.

The project has been funded by USAID and supported by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The project aims to improve preparedness towards FSSM and Wastewater Management in towns and cities of the Ganga Basin.

Person in News

Pulitzer-winner scholar Martin J Sherwin passes away

Martin J Sherwin, a leading scholar of atomic weapons has recently passed away.

Sherwin won the Pulitzer Prize for his book titled 'American Prometheus'.

Sherwin was a New York City native whose interest in nuclear research dated back to his undergraduate years at Dartmouth College.

Quick Facts: The Pulitzer Prize is presented by Columbia University.

12th October

International Affairs

UN Human Rights Council recognizes 'Right to a clean environment'

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) unanimously voted to recognize a clean, healthy, have, and sustainable environment as a universal right.

The resolution was approved following a campaign led by 13000 civil society organizations and indigenous peoples' groups, 90,000 children, and private sector stakeholders.

The Right to a clean environment was first rooted in the "1972 Stockholm Declaration".

Quick Facts: UNHCR is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Science and Technology

Telangana to test Mobile-based e-voting system

The Telangana State Election Commission has planned to conduct a dry run of a "Mobile-based e-voting system" amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Telangana State Election Commission is implementing the system in association with the emerging technologies wing of IT Electronics and Communications (ITE&C) and CDAC.

The dry run to be held in the Khammam district of Telangana will be India's first smartphone-based e-voting process.

International Affairs

India and UK sign pact on 'Forward Action Plan'

India and the United Kingdom have inked a pact on 'Forward Action Plan on power & clean transportation, renewables, green finance, and green energy research'.

The 'Forward Action Plan' was discussed at the "3rd India-UK Energy for Growth Partnership- Ministerial Energy Dialogue" held in the backdrop of the United Nations COP26.

The action plan covers several topics such as energy storage, battery storage, and the need of mobilising investments across renewable energy.

Quick Facts: The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-26) is set to start from October 31 in Glasgow.

Economy

India faces a Coal shortage

According to the data of 'Central Electricity Authority of India', India is facing an unprecedented shortage of coal stocks across the thermal plants.

Out of the 135 thermal plants using coal for power generation, 106 or nearly 80 percent were either in the critical or supercritical stage.

The coal shortage might delay the economic reopening in India and will hit the underdeveloped energy infrastructure harder in India.

Quick Fact: RK Singh is the Union Power Minister of India.

Art and Culture

Bathukamma festival begins in Telangana

Bathukamma festival, a nine-day floral festival has begun in Telangana, India with women dressing in traditional clothes and colorful processions.

The Bathukamma festival is celebrated during the Durga Navratri.

The festival begins on the day of Mahalaya Amavasya and continues for nine days ending on the day of Durgashtami.

Quick Facts: K. Chandrashekar Rao is the Chief Minister of Telangana.

Economy

Reliance New Energy Solar acquires REC Solar Holdings

Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd. (RNESL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of RIL has acquired 100 percent shareholding of REC Solar Holdings AS.

RNESL has acquired the REC group from the China National Bluestar (Group) Co. Ltd. for an Enterprise Value of USD 771 million.

The acquisition will enable Reliance to achieve the goal of generating 100GW of solar energy by 2030 also supporting the country's global goal to produce 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030.

Quick Facts: RNESL is headquartered in Mumbai.

Miscellaneous

Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences announced

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2021 with one-half to David Card.

The other half has been jointly given to Joshua Angrist and Guido Imbens for their methodological contributions to the analysis of casual relationships.

The Prize in Economic Sciences is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.

Person in News

Aryabhata Award conferred to G Satheesh Reddy

The Secretary of the Department of Defense R&D and the Chairman of DRDO Dr. G Satheesh Reddy has been conferred the prestigious Aryabhata Award.

The Award was presented by the Astronautical Society of India (ASI) to Reddy for his outstanding contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.

Dr. Reddy is a pioneer in the area of R&D of advanced avionics, navigation, and missile technologies.

Quick Facts: Dr. K Sivan is the President of the Astronautical Society of India.

13th October

International Affairs

World's first self-driving train unveiled by Germany

German rail operator Deutsche Bahn and industrial group Siemens unveiled the world's first automated driverless train in Hamburg.

The train is controlled by digital technology and is fully automated.

The project partners and the city of Hamburg have invested a total of 60 million euros in the digital 'S-Bahn Hamburg'.

State Affairs

Karuppur kalamkari paintings, Kallakurichi wood carvings get GI tags

Karuppur Kalamkari Paintings, Kallakurichi Wood Carvings, and Kanyakumari Clove from Tamil Nadu were awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tags.

Kalamkari painting is done on the pure cotton cloth while the Kallakurichi Wood Carving is a unique form of wood carving where the craftsmen carve temple-related products and furniture.

The Kanyakumari Cloves is known for its rich aromatic oil content.

Quick Facts: Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin is the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Miscellaneous

UNDP releases 'Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021'

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021 was released by the United Nations Development Programme and the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

The Index considers data from 109 countries and 5.9 billion people including 26 low-income countries, 80 middle-income countries and 3 high-income countries.

The index measures each person's deprivations across 10 indicators divided into three equally weighted dimensions.

Quick Facts: UNDP is headquartered in New York, US.

International Affairs

Alexander Schellenberg was appointed as the new Chancellor of Austria

Alexander Schallenberg has been appointed as the new Chancellor of Austria.

The appointment came following the resignation of Sebastian Kurz amid corruption allegations.

He was sworn in by the President of Austria Alexander Van der Bellen.

Quick Fact: Vienna is the Capital of Austria.

Miscellaneous

'Quest for a Stable Afghanistan' authored by Sujeet Sarkar

The book titled "Quest for a Stable Afghanistan: A View from Ground Zero" was authored by Sujeet Sarkar.

The book has been published by Rupa Publications.

The book provides a detailed account of the haggard and faulty policies that the West has put Afghanistan on the deeper and increasingly worrisome crisis.

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

National Affairs

PM Narendra Modi addresses 28th NHRC Foundation Day program

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the 28th NHRC Foundation Day program through video conferencing.

In his address, he emphasized that with measures like International Solar Alliance, Renewable energy goals and Hydrogen Mission India is rapidly moving in the direction of eco-friendly growth.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is a Statutory public body constituted on 12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993.

Quick Facts: Justice Arun Kumar Mishra is the Chairperson of NHRC.

Summits and Conferences

PM Modi participates in the G20 Extraordinary Summit on Afghanistan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually participated in the G20 Extraordinary Summit on Afghanistan.

The Meeting was convened by Italy and chaired by the Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi.

The issues related to a humanitarian crisis, concerns regarding terrorism and human rights in Afghanistan were discussed in the meeting.

14th October

Person in News

Former IAS Amit Khare appointed as the advisor to PM Modi

The former higher education secretary, Amit Khare was appointed as the advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently.

Khare is a retired IAS officer of the 1985 batch from the Jharkhand cadre.

As an advisor to the PM, he will enjoy the rank and scale of the secretary to the Union government and has been appointed for two years initially or until further orders.

National Affairs

Covaxin approved for emergency use in 2-18-year-olds

The Subject Expert Committee on COVID-19 has approved the "emergency use" of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin vaccine for children aged between 2-18 years old.

According to AIIMS professor, the trials suggested that the safety and immunogenicity of Covaxin are almost the same in children aged 2-18 years as is in adults above 19 years of age.

The trial was done on children dividing them into three groups- first between 12-18 years, second was between 6-12 years while the third was between 2-6 years.

Quick Facts: Covaxin has been developed by Bharat Biotech with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Government Schemes

'Desh Ke Mentor' program launched by the Delhi government

The Delhi government has launched its "Desh Ke Mentors" program recently across all the schools in Delhi.

The program will provide students with young mentors which will help them in navigating their higher education as well as a career path.

The program will be available for a minimum of two months and carry on additionally for four months optionally with mentors from all parts of India.

Quick Facts: Delhi is the second-most populated city in India after Mumbai.

Miscellaneous

Henley Passport Index 2021 released

The Henley Passport Index 2021 was released recently in which India's rank has dropped by six places as compared to the 2020 Index to 90th.

Japan and Singapore have topped the list as their passport holders are allowed to travel across 192 countries visa-free followed by South Korea and Germany claiming the second spot.

Henley Passport Index ranks the passports of countries based on the number of destinations their holders can visit without getting a visa in advance.

Quick Fact: The Henley Passport Index was prepared by the London-based Henley and Partners.

Environment

MoEF&CC releases Vision Plan (2021-2031) for Indian Zoos

The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has released the "Vision Plan: 2021-2031" for Indian Zoos.

The Vision Plan has been launched to upgrade the Indian Zoos to global standards.

The Plan was announced at a two-day conference organized by the Central Zoo Authority hosted by Sardar Patel Zoological Park, Kevdia in Gujarat.

Quick Facts: Bhupendra Yadav is the current Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.

Economy

Maharatna status given to the Power Finance Corporation

The Central Government has given the 'Maharatna' status to the Power Finance Corporation (PFC).

PFC has become the 11th state-owned entity in India to enter the Maharatna category alongside companies like ONGC, SAIL, BHEL, and Indian Oil Corporation.

The Maharatna status is accorded to a company that has recorded more than the net profit of INR 5,000 crore for 3 consecutive years or an average turnover of INR 25,00 crore for 3 years.

Quick Facts: PFC is India's largest NBFC as well as the largest infrastructure finance company.

Environment

NITI Aayog: Handbook on Sustainable Urban Plastic Waste management

The Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, Rajiv Kumar has launched the "NITI Aayog- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Handbook on Sustainable Urban Plastic Waste Management"

The handbook provides a comprehensive overview to manage plastic waste by representing and discussing the components of the entire plastic waste value chain.

The handbook has been launched with the motive of spreading awareness amongst the masses regarding the harmful effects of plastic.

Quick Facts: Amitabh Kant is the CEO of NITI Aayog

16th October

Science and Technology

AIIMS launched 'Healthy Smile' Mobile App

AIIMS has launched a bilingual mobile application 'Healthy Smile' in a bid to raise awareness on maintaining oral hygiene among children.

The app is an initiative of the Department of Paediatric and Preventive Dentistry with the help of an AIIMS intramural research grant.

The app comprises a musical two-minute brushing timer along with preventive dental care tips for all age groups of children, songs, FAQs, and much more.

Quick Facts: The full form of AIIMS is 'All India Institute of Medical Sciences

International Affairs

India re-elected to UNHRC for 2022-24

India has been re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council for the 2022-24 term with the overwhelming majority in UNGA.

The decision took place in the 76th session of the UN General Assembly which involved 18 new members of the UNHRC.

The remaining four vacant seats in the Asia-Pacific States have been taken by Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates.

Quick Facts: Volkan Bozkir is the President of the UN General Assembly.

Economy

Union Minister Anurag Thakur launches 'MyParkings' App

The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur has launched the 'MyParkings' app recently.

The app has been developed by Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL) to tackle the issue of congestion of vehicle parking.

People can book parking slots online in areas that are under the jurisdiction of South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) through the app.

Summits and Conferences

Defense Minister addresses 'SCO seminar on Role of Women in Armed Forces'

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the seminar on 'Role of Women in Armed Forces' organized by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

The seminar hosted by India highlighted the role of India's women military officers in the UN peacekeeping missions at the global level.

Indian Army started commissioning women officers in the year 1992 and is now also accepting women for permanent commission as well as in commanding army units and battalions.

Defense

India begins 'Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2021' with US

India and the United States have begun the 15-day mega military exercise in Alaska in a bid to further deepen bilateral military cooperation.

The exercise will be conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson in Alaska marking the 17th edition 'Yudh Abhyas'.

The Indian contingent will comprise 350 personnel from an infantry battalion group of the Indian Army.

Quick Facts: The United States had designated India as a Major Defense Partner in June 2016.

Environment

China sets up USD 233 million 'Kunming Biodiversity Fund'

China has pledged to inject USD 233 million into a new fund called the 'Kunming Biodiversity Fund' for the protection of biodiversity in developing countries.

The decision was taken during a key UN conservation summit where China pledged to play a prominent role internationally in biodiversity conservation.

The countries also debated on the '30 by 30 agenda' in the meeting which to afford 30 percent of land and ocean protection status by 2030.

Quick Facts: The UN Convention on Biological Diversity has been ratified by 195 countries and the European Union.

Miscellaneous

India ranked 101st on the Global Hunger Index 2021 monthly

The Global Hunger Index 2021 prepared jointly by the Irish aid agency 'Concern Worldwide' and German organization 'Welt Hunger Hilfe' has been released recently.

India has been placed in the 101st position out of 116 countries behind its neighbor countries Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

GHI is calculated based on four indicators- Undernourishment, Child wasting, Child stunting and, Child mortality.

18th October

Science and Technology

China launches Astronaut crew on a 6-month mission

China has launched a three-person crew for a six-month mission on board the 'Shenzhou-13' spaceship to its space station.

The crew is planning to set up a new record for the time spent in space by the Chinese astronauts.

The mission launched by a Long March-2F rocket is expected to complete docking with the Tianhe module within six hours.

National Affairs

PM Narendra Modi dedicates 7 new Defense PSUs to the nation

PM Narendra Modi has dedicated seven new PSUs carved out of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) to the nation.

The 7 new companies have been formed following the dissolution of the 200-year-old OFB which comprised 41 factories and 9 ancillary bodies.

The seven new defense PSUs include- Munition India Ltd., Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd. Troop Comforts Ltd., India Optel, etc.

Quick Facts: Ordnance Factory Board was headquartered in Kolkata, India.

State Affairs

Varanasi to become the first Indian city to use ropeway services for public

Varanasi (UP) will become the first city of India to use ropeway services in public transportation.

Varanasi will be the third city in the world after Bolivia and Mexico City to use a ropeway for public transportation.

The project worth 424 crores will cover a total distance of 4.2 km in just 15 minutes.

Quick Facts: Lucknow is the capital of Uttar Pradesh.

Economy

BPCL launches automated fuelling technology 'UFill'

The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has launched an automated fuelling technology called 'UFill'.

The technology will provide a swift, secure and smart experience to customers at outlets through the provision of controlling the process of fuelling.

The UFill functionality can be used with any payment app like GPay, PayTM, PhonePe and obviates the need to look at zero or final reading.

Quick Facts: Arun Kumar Singh is the CMD of BPCL.

Miscellaneous

Microsoft team wins 2021 CK Prahalad Award

Indian American Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella has won the prestigious CK Prahalad award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership for the year 2021.

Apart from Naella, Microsoft's President and Vice-Chair Brad Smith, CFO Amy Hood and Chief Environment officer Lucas Joppa have shared the award.

They have received the award for their collaborative leadership to transform Microsoft into a carbon-negative company by 2030.

Summits and Conferences

Ministry of Food Processing Industries organizes Food Tech Summit 2021

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme organized a Food tech SUMmit 2021 recently.

The Food Tech Summit 2021 aimed at setting up the stage for all food-tech stakeholders to impart, discuss and acquaint micro enterprises on new emerging trends in food processing and tech innovation.

The PMFME Scheme has been launched under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Quick Facts: Pashupati Kumar Paras is the Minister of MoFPI.

Miscellaneous

Reliance top Indian firms in Forbes World's top 100 best employers list

Reliance Industries Ltd. has topped the World's Best Employers ratings 2021 published by Forbes among all Indian firms.

RIL was placed at the 52nd position in the overall ranking of 750 global corporates.

The top place in the Forbes rankings has been occupied by Samsung Electronics followed by IBM, Microsoft, and Amazon.

Quick Facts: Steve Forbes founded the American Business Magazine 'Forbes' on January 1, 1917.

19th October

Government Schemes

"Mera Ghar Mere Naam" scheme launched in Punjab

Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Cheema launched "Mera Ghar Mere Naam" recently to give ownership rights to the people who are living in houses within the lal lakir of cities as well as villages.

Lal lakir refers to the land which is part of the village habitation and is used for non-agricultural purposes.

The scheme will provide much-needed assistance to all the people including those from the underprivileged and needed strata.

Quick Facts: Northern goshawk is the state bird of Punjab.

International Affairs

China successfully tests Nuclear Capable Hypersonic Missile

China has successfully tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile demonstrating an advanced space capability.

The Chinese military launched the rocket carrying a hypersonic glide vehicle that flew through low-orbit space.

Countries like Russia, China, and the US are developing hypersonic missiles that travel at a speed five times that of sound.

Quick Facts: The mortar used to bind the Great Wall of China was made with sticky rice.

Person in News

Jonas Gahr Store appointed as the new PM of Norway

Jonas Gahr Store, the Leader of the Labour Party in Norway has assumed the charge of the PM of Norway.

Store's Labour Party won the parliamentary elections in September 2021.

Jonas will be succeeding Erna Solberg as the new Prime Minister of Norway.

Quick Facts: Norwegian Krone is the currency of Norway.

Defense

Indian Army wins gold medal in Cambrian Patrol Exercise 2021

A team from the 5th battalion-4(5/4) Gorkha Rifles representing the Indian Army won the gold medal at the prestigious Cambrian Patrol Exercise 2021.

The event held in the UK witnessed the Indian Army competing with a total of 96 teams including 17 international teams representing Special Forces and prestigious regiments.

The Indian Army was praised for its excellent navigation skills, overall physical endurance, and delivery of patrol orders.

Sports

Chennai Super Kings wins IPL 2021

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) defeated the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the finals to win the 2021 Indian Premier League (IPL) title.

This was the 4th win of CSK in IPL having previously won the tournament in 2010, 2011, and 2018.

The 2021 IPL was the 14th edition of IPL which is an Indian-based cricket league in the 20-20 format.

Quick Facts: Harshal Patel is the Player of the IPL Tournament 2021.

Science and Technology

Russian team returns to Earth after filming their first movie in space.

A Russian film crew is back on Earth after wrapping up scenes for the first movie shot in space.

Klim Shipenko along with actor Yulia Peresild left for the ISS and landed in Kazakhstan where they met a crew filming the touchdown scenes.

The filmmakers had blasted off from Kazakhstan earlier this month, traveling to the ISS with veteran cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov to film scenes for "The Challenge".

Quick Facts: The International Space Station was launched on 20 November 1998.

Miscellaneous

ICC and UNICEF partner to raise awareness on mental wellbeing

The International Cricket Council (ICC) and UNICEF have partnered to raise awareness about mental wellbeing among children and adolescents.

The partnership came ahead of the 2021 Mens' T20 World Cup in Oman and UAE.

UNICEF and ICC have aimed to break the stigma about mental health and spark conversations throughout the ICC Men's 2021 World Cup.

Quick Facts: ICC is headquartered in Dubai, UAE.

20th October

Person in News

Ayushmann Khurrana joins CoinDCX for 'Future Yahi Hai' campaign

Ayushman Khurrana has ventured into the cryptocurrency space through his association with CoinCDX's 'Future Yahi Hai' campaign.

The campaign will address major issues and dispel myths when it comes to crypto investments.

CoinDCX is India's largest cryptocurrency exchange valued at USD 1.1 billion.

Quick Facts: Sumit Gupta and Neeraj Khandelwal are the founders of CoinDCX.

Economy

RBI imposes a fine of INR 1.95 crores on Standard Chartered Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposes a fine of INR 1.95 crore on the Standard Chartered Bank.

The fine came as the bank failed to report a cyber security incident within the prescribed period and failed to credit the amount involved in unauthorized e-transactions.

SCB was also penalized for its non-compliance with RBI's directions on customer protection.

Quick Facts: Bill Winters is the CEO of Standard Chartered Bank.

Summits and Conferences

The 4th General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance begins

The Fourth General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) has been organized virtually.

The event will run till 21st October 2021.

The Assembly will be presided over by the President of the ISA Assembly RK Singh.

Quick Facts: RK Singh is the Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy.

Miscellaneous

India ranks 40th in 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index Survey

Leading management consulting firm Mercer Consulting has released the 13th edition of the Mercer Global Pension Index (MCGPI).

India has been ranked at 40th position out of 43 countries in the 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey.

Iceland has topped the Index followed by Netherlands and Norway.

Quick Facts: Martin Ferland is the President and CEO of Mercer.

Sports

India's Bhavani Devi wins Charleville National Competition in France

Fencer Bhavani Devi has won the Charleville National Competition in France in the individual women's saber event.

Bhavani made history at the Tokyo Olympics 2020 by becoming the first Indian to compete in the sport of fencing.

Bhavani is currently ranked 50th in the world and is the top-ranked fencer from India.

Miscellaneous

Legendary Indian Poet Gulzar authors a book titled "Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir"

Legendary Indian poet lyricist director Gulzar has released a new book titled "Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir".

The memoir has been published by the publishing group Penguin Random House India.

Gulzar has shared many interesting unknown facts about legends like Kishore Kumar, Bimal Roy, Ritwik Ghatak, Hrishikesh Mukherjee, and Mahasweta Devi among others.

Summits and Conferences

India, Israel, UAE, and the US decide to launch a quadrilateral economic forum

India, Israel, UAE, and the United States have decided to launch a new quadrilateral economic forum.

The forum discussed possibilities for joint infrastructure projects expanding economic and political cooperation in the Middle East and Asia.

The Quadrilateral builds on ongoing cooperation between the US, Israel, and UAE after the Abraham Accords last year.

21st October

Economy

NPCI launches NTS platform for Card Tokenization

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced the launch of the NPCI Tokenization system.

The NTS will support the tokenization of RuPay cards to further enhance the safety of customers and provide a seamless shopping experience.

NPCI is the specialized division of the Reserve Bank of India which works under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance.

Quick Facts: Northern goshawk is the state bird of Punjab.

Government Schemes

250mm Seer Water Supply Scheme launched in Kashmir

Union Minister Piyush Goyal has inaugurated a 250mm Seer Water Supply Scheme in Kashmir.

The project will benefit around 10,000 people and the competition of the project will be done under the ambit of Jal Jeevan Mission.

The Minister also inaugurated the Forest Department's Deodar sapling plantation drive 'Green JK Drive' which will include the plantation of 1 lakh saplings.

International Affairs

Kung Fu Nuns win the UNESCO Martial Arts Education Prize 2021

The prestigious "Martial Arts Education Prize 2021" has been conferred to the world-renowned Kung Fu Nuns of the Drukpa order of Buddhism.

The Prize was given to them from the UNESCO International Centre for Martial Arts to honor their acts of service and championing of gender equality in the Himalayas.

The Kung Fu Nuns belong to the Drukpa Lineage of Indian Buddhism who serves others through their unimaginable acts of bravery.

Quick Facts: The Kung Fu Nuns belong to the Drukpa Kagyu lineage, a thousand-year-old sect led by the Gyalwang Drukpa.

Environment

IITM develops new Air Quality Early Warning System

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) has developed a new Air Quality Early Warning System (AQWS) and Decision Support System (DSS).

DSS and AQWS systems were launched for better air-quality management in the Delhi-NCR region.

A dedicated website has been created to deliver quantitative information regarding the contribution of emissions from Delhi and adjoining regions.

Quick Facts: IITM is an autonomous institute in Pune working under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

International Affairs

Russia and India sign MoU to collaborate in the mining and steel sector

India and Russia have signed an MoU in the mining and steel sector with a special focus on coking coal.

The MoU was signed between the Union Minister of Steel Ram Chandra Prasad and Russia's Minister of Energy Nikolay Shulginov.

The signing of the deal is part of India's National Steel Policy 2017 which aims to reach 300 million tonne steel production by 2030.

Quick Facts: The world's coldest city Oymyakon is located in Russia.

Environment

WMO's report suggests that Africa's glaciers are to disappear soon

WMO and other agencies released its new report warning that Africa's rare glaciers are going to disappear in the next two decades because of climate change.

The shrinking glaciers of Mount Kenya, Mount Kilimanjaro, and the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda are the symbol of rapid and widespread changes to come.

By the year 2030, around 118 million extremely poor people will be exposed to floods, drought, and extreme heat in Africa.

Miscellaneous**Police Commemoration Day 2021 observed on 21st October**

October 21 is celebrated as the Police Commemoration Day to pay tributes to all the police personnel who died in the line of duty.

Since 2012, the Police Commemoration Day parade is being held at the National Level at the Police Memorial in Delhi.

India's first national police museum was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in Delhi.

Quick Facts: The Indian Police Services were formerly known as the Imperial Police.

23rd October**Defense****DRDO tests High-Speed Expendable Aerial target ABHYAS**

The Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested the high-speed expendable aerial target called ABHYAS recently.

ABHYAS high-speed expendable aerial target will be used to evaluate several missile systems.

ABHYAS has been developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) of DRDO headquartered in Bengaluru.

Quick Facts: ADA developed HAL Tejas in collaboration with the Aircraft Research and Design Center of HAL.

International Affairs**New Education Law introduced in China**

China passed its New Education Law to cut the "twin pressures" of homework and off-site tutoring in the core subjects.

The new law asks parents to arrange a time for their children for reasonable rest and exercise and banned after-school tutoring for major subjects on weekends and holidays.

China took several assertive moves ranging from tackling the addiction of youngsters to online games, clamping down on blind worship of internet celebrities.

Economy

India hands over Jaynagar-Kurtha rail link to Nepal

India has handed over a 34.9 km-long cross-border rail link to the Nepal government that connects Jaynagar (Bihar) to Kurtha (Nepal).

The operationalized cross-border rail link is likely to enhance trade and commerce activities and enhance people to people linkage between both countries.

The ceremony took place in the presence of the Indian ambassador to Nepal Vinay M. Kwartar and Nepal Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport Renu Kumari Yadav.

Quick Facts: Jaynagar also known as Jainagar is a town and notified area in the Madhubani district of Bihar.

Art and Culture

Karnataka celebrates 'Kittur Rani Chennamma Jayanthi'

Karnataka is celebrating 'Kittur Rani Chennamma Jayanthi' on October 23.

Karnataka CM Basavaraj S Bommai garlanded the statue of the Queen in Hubballi in Dharwad district.

Kittur Chennamma was the Indian Queen of Kittur who led an armed rebellion in 1824 against the British East India Company (BEIC).

Quick Facts: Kittur Chennamma was born on October 23, 1778.

Environment

Bangladesh to share 'Climate prosperity plan' at COP26

Bangladesh has planned to present its "climate prosperity plan" at the upcoming UN climate talks in Glasgow.

The plan will be presented to mitigate the effects of global warming on economic development and boost renewable energy usage.

The 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) has been scheduled from October 31 to November 12 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Quick Facts: Bengali is the official language of Bangladesh.

Person in News**Dame Sandra Mason elected as the first-ever president of Barbados**

Dame Sandra Mason aged 72 years has been elected after securing two-thirds of the votes in Barbados' two houses of Parliament.

Mason has been serving as the governor-general of Barbados since 2018 when she was appointed by the queen.

Barbados elected its first-ever president as it prepares to become a republic, removing Queen Elizabeth as the head of state.

Quick Facts: Barbados is an island country located in the Lesser Antilles of the West Indies.

Sports**Namibia defeats Ireland to qualify for Super 12 stages**

Namibia defeated Ireland by 8 wickets in the Group A of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium, Sharjah.

Namibia achieved the target of 126 runs set by Ireland with 9 balls remaining in the end.

With this finish at the top of Group A, Namibia will join India's group featuring Pakistan, New Zealand, and Afghanistan.

Quick Facts: Windhoek is the capital of Namibia.

27th October**Government Schemes****'Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission' launched**

PM Narendra Modi has launched 'Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (ABHIM)' from his parliamentary constituency Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

The mission aims to address the gaps in public health infrastructure with a focus on critical care facilities and primary care in urban and rural areas.

The total outlay of the mission is INR 5,000 crores.

Person in News**Rajinikanth conferred with 51st Dada Saheb Phalke Award**

Actor Rajnikanth has been conferred with the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his stupendous contribution to Indian cinema at the 67th National Film Awards ceremony.

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is awarded for excellence in cinematic achievement and is the highest honor in film awarded by the Government of India.

The recipient of the 2018 Dadasaheb Award was Amitabh Bachchan.

Quick Facts: Rajnikanth was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2016.

Sports

Ahmedabad and Lucknow are the two new teams of the Indian Premier League (IPL)

Ahmedabad and Lucknow are the two new teams of the Indian Premier League (IPL) from 2022.

RP- Sanjiv Goenka Group (RPSG) is the owner of the Lucknow team while the CVC Capital Partners is the owner of the Ahmedabad team.

The total number of teams in the competition has now been increased to 10.

Quick Facts: IPL's first season was played in 2008.

Science and Technology

UIDAI to conduct 'Aadhaar Hackathon-2021'

UIDAI is going to conduct an 'Aadhaar Hackathon 2021' from 28th October 2021 to 31st October 2021 to promote the culture of innovation among the Indian youth.

Hackathon consists of multiple problem statements categorized under two broad themes: Enrolment and Authentication.

The event will be conducted from 28th October to 31st October.

National Affairs

Government sets up National Steering Committee for NIPUN Bharat Mission

A National Steering Committee (NSC) for implementation of the NIPUN Bharat Mission has been constituted by the Department of School Education and Literacy.

The focus of the committee is to achieve the goal of universal proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by the year 2026-27.

The committee seeks to develop the methodology of assessment to analyze the progress of education and provide feedback to states/UTs.

Quick Facts: Dharmendra Pradhan is the Chairperson of NSC.

Summits and Conferences

India, UK, and Australia to jointly launch IRIS initiative at COP26

India, Australia, and the UK in collaboration with small island developing states (SIDS) have planned to launch 'Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)' on the sidelines of COP26.

The IRIS aims at creating an infrastructure that can withstand disasters and lessen the economic losses in island nations.

IRIS will be launched with initial funding of USD 10 million from Australia, India, and the UK.

Miscellaneous

Invest India elected as the President of WAIPA for 2021-23

Invest India has been unanimously elected as the President of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) for 2021-23.

The other members of the WAIPA Steering Committee include two Vice Presidents and nine regional directors.

Invest India is a National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency to help investors with investment opportunities and options in India.

28th October

Government Schemes

'Integrated Teacher Education Programme' launched

The Central government has notified a four-year 'Integrated Teacher Education Programme' in line with the New Education Policy (NEP).

Under this scheme, BEd courses will be integrated and will be of four-year duration offering students BA & BEd or BSc & BEd or BCom & BEd degrees together.

The new integrated course will help in creating teachers who are in sync with the New Education Policy.

International Affairs

US issues passport with 'X' gender marker

The United States issued the first passport with an 'X' gender marker to recognize the rights of people who are not identified as male or female.

The step was taken following the fight of Dana Zzyym who is an intersex activist from Fort Collins and had been battling since 2015.

By 2015 the 'Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT)' community had won the right to marry in all the 50 states in the USA.

Quick Facts: The phrase 'The United States of America' was first unanimously published in the Virginia Gazette newspaper in Williamsburg, Virginia on April 6, 1776.

National Affairs

'Knock every door' campaign launched for Second-dose vaccination

The Union Health Ministry has asked states and UTs to come up with a district-level plan and launch a 'Har Ghar Dastak' (Knock every door) campaign.

The campaign will be initiated to scale up the COVID-19 vaccination drive.

Under the campaign, vaccine vans will be introduced and the exercise will be reviewed daily.

Defense

Ballistic missile Agni-V successfully test-fired

India has successfully test-fired a surface-to-surface ballistic missile called Agni 5 recently.

The missile was launched from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.

The Agni-5 missile has been built by the Defense Research Development Organisation (DRDO).

Quick Fact: The first test of the Agni-5 missile was carried out in April 2012.

Summits and Conferences

G-20 Joint Finance, Health Ministers meet in Rome

The Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman is attending the 'G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers' meeting in Rome.

On the visit, she will be discussing measures to strengthen the COVID-19 pandemic preparedness, prevention, and response.

The meeting is being held before the G20 Rome Summit which is the climax of the G20 process and the final stage of intense work within Ministers and Working Groups.

International Affairs

Indo-Canadian Anita Anand appointed as the Canada's Defense Minister

Indo-Canadian Anita Anand became just the second woman to be appointed as Canada's minister of national defense.

The announcement was made by Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau who unveiled his newly formed cabinet.

The ministers were sworn in by governor-general Mary May Simon in a ceremony at the Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

Quick Facts: Anita Anand is the first woman to serve as the Defense Minister since Kim Campbell in the 1990s.

Person in News

FloBiz Neobank signed Manoj Bajpayee as the Brand Ambassador

FloBiz, a neobank for Indian Small to Medium-sized Businesses (SMBs) announced actor Manoj Bajpayee as the brand ambassador for its flagship product.

He will promote the "Business Ko Le Seriously" campaign to mark the importance of digital solutions.

He has signed to accelerate myBillBook's outreach to the SMB sector and promote the use of myBillBook.

29th October

Summits and Conferences

PM Modi addresses 16th East Asian Summit virtually

PM Narendra Modi participated virtually in the 16th East Asia Summit (EAS) during which he reaffirmed India's focus on free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific ties.

The 16th EAS was hosted under the Chairmanship of Brunei.

The members of EAS include 10 ASEAN member states and India, China, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the US, and Russia.

Quick Facts: EAS is a regional forum and was held for the first time in 2005.

National Affairs

Civil Aviation Minister releases Krishi UDAN 2.0

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya has released Krishi UDAN 2.0 laying out the vision of improving value realization through better integration and optimization of Agri-harvesting and air transportation.

The mission will open up new avenues of growth for the agriculture sector and help attain the goal of doubling the farmers' income.

Krishi UDAN 2.0 will be implemented at 53 airports.

Quick Facts: John Mathai was the first Minister of Civil Aviation.

National Affairs

Two container-based mobile hospitals set up in Delhi and Chennai

The Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has announced plans to set up two container-based mobile hospitals with all healthcare facilities.

The first of its kind initiative in Asia has been taken up under the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.

These hospitals can be rushed to any place by rail or air to address any health emergency.

Sports

NIMAS multidimensional adventure sports to Europe flagged off

The Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt has flagged off the upcoming National Institute of Mountaineering & Allied Sports (NIMAS) multidimensional adventure sports expedition to Europe.

NIMAS will be conducting the expedition in Chamonix, France in November 2021.

The locations for the expedition are Alps Mountains, Chamonix, Normandy, and the English Channel.

International Affairs

Shavkat Mirziyoyev re-elected as the President of Uzbekistan

Shavkat Mirziyoyev has won a 2nd five-year term as the President of Uzbekistan.

Shavkat is a member of the UzLiDeP (Uzbekistan Liberal Democratic Party).

Shavkat Mirziyoyev took office in 2016 following the death of Islan Karimov who was the first post-independence President of Uzbekistan.

Quick Facts: Tashkent is the capital of Uzbekistan.

State Affairs

Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel launched 'GoGreen' Scheme

Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel has launched the 'GoGreen' Scheme to provide two-wheelers at subsidized rates to construction and industrial workers of the state.

The scheme is aimed at reducing fuel bills and also curbing vehicular pollution.

The organized sector workers such as industrial labor would get a subsidy of 30 percent on the vehicle's price or INR 30,00 whichever is less on the purchase of battery-powered two-wheelers.

Quick Facts: Gandhinagar is the capital of Gujarat.

Miscellaneous

ADB signs MoU with India for Integrated Urban Flood Management in Chennai

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a USD 251-million loan for climate-resilient integrated urban flood protection and management in the Chennai-Kosasthalaiyar basin.

The flood management system will help strengthen the resilience of Chennai city to floods.

The system will help the residents of the basin to cope with the intensifying rainfall, a higher sea-level rise, and protect their lives, economy, and the environment.

30th October

National Affairs

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launches knowledge app "CONSULT"

Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari has launched a knowledge app and platform CONSULT.

The app is the first such global facility by which people who need information, advice, counsel, guidance can contact and call up experts in multiple sectors.

Every expert will get a unique, exclusive page reflecting their contributions by way of articles and video blogs.

Quick Facts: EAS is a regional forum and was held for the first time in 2005.

International Affairs

South Korea inaugurated World's Largest Hydrogen Fuel Cell Power Plant

The Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy of South Korea held that the 'Shinincheon Bitdream Fuel Cell Power Plant' in Seo-gu, Incheon has been completed and inaugurated.

The power plant is operated by South Korea's independent power production company, POSCO Energy and Doosan Fuel Cell.

The plant has a capacity of 78 MW and was constructed in four stages from 2017.

Quick Facts: Moon Jae-in is the President of South Korea.

Person in News

Centre approves the re-appointment of Shaktikanta Das as the Governor of RBI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of Shaktikanta Das as the Governor of RBI.

Das has been appointed for three years with effect from December 10, 2021, and had assumed charge as the 25th governor of RBI on December 1, 2018.

Das is a 1980 batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer from the Tamil Nadu cadre who also served as a member of the 15th Finance Commission.

Miscellaneous

THE's World Reputation Rankings 2021 announced

Four Indian institutes have made it to the Times Higher Education (THE)'s World Reputation Rankings 2021.

IISC Bengaluru has ranked among the top 100 while the other three Indian institutes are IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, and IIT Madras.

The Harvard University of USA has topped the 2021 rankings followed by MIT (USA) and the University of Oxford (UK).

Quick Facts: The Times Higher Education (THE) was formerly known as The Times Higher Education Supplement (THES).

Science and Technology

Facebook rebrands as 'Meta'

Facebook Inc. has changed its name and logo to Meta Platforms Inc. recently reflecting its commitment to developing the new surround-yourself tech called the "metaverse".

The rebranding of the company is part of its big plan to develop a virtual world and to bring the apps and tech of the company under one new company brand.

Metaverse is a virtual environment wherein people can go inside, meet, work, play using virtual reality.

Quick Facts: Facebook was founded on February 4, 2004.

Summits and Conferences

CII Asia Health 2021 Summit held

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya addressed the CII Asia Health 2021 summit that was held recently.

The summit was organized under the theme "Transforming Healthcare for a better tomorrow".

The minister noted that health has been linked with development in India and initiatives like Yoga, Khelo India, etc. play a significant role in releasing the aim of a healthy society.

Quick Facts: "PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission" was launched on October 25, 2021.

Defense

Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Sarthak' inaugurated

The Director-General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), K Natarajan has commissioned the indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) "Sarthak" recently.

ICGS Sarthak is a 105-meter-long ship, the 4th ship in the series of five OPVs which are being built by Goa Shipyard Ltd.

ICGS Sarthak will be based in Porbandar, Gujarat, and will operate on the Western Seaboard of India.

Quick Facts: The Indian Coast Guard was established on February 1, 1977, under the Coast Guard Act, 1978.