

September Third Week Current Affairs

National News

Two more beaches in India were awarded the 'Blue Flag' beach certification

- According to the Union Environment Ministry, two more beaches in India — **Kovalam in Tamil Nadu** and **Eden in Puducherry**, have been awarded the 'Blue Flag' certification taking the total number of blue flag beaches to **10**.
- It has also re-certified eight nominated beaches Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghla in Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden in Odisha and Radhanagar in Andaman and Nicobar, which received the 'Blue Flag' certification last year.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya released FSSAI's 3rd State Food Safety Index

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya released the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s **3rd State Food Safety Index (SFSI)** that measured the performance of states across five parameters of food safety.
- Gujarat was the top-ranking state, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- Among the smaller states, Goa stood first, followed by Meghalaya and Manipur. Among the union territories, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and New Delhi secured top ranks.

India will become the third-largest importer by 2050 according to the UK's Department of International Trade

- **India** could become the **world's third-largest importer by 2050**, following China and the United States, according to a report released by the UK's Department of International Trade.
- Currently, India is on the eighth spot on the list of largest importing countries.

Union Agriculture Minister virtually attends the G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** attended the **G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting**, which was hosted by Italy.
- Italy currently holds the G20 Presidency.
- The G20 ministers discussed the topic 'Research as a driving force behind sustainability', where Indian agricultural minister emphasised the importance of agricultural research in the three dimensions of food security — availability, availability, access and affordability.

Union Ministry of Law and Justice launches the 'Ek Pahal' campaign

- The **Union Ministry of Law and Justice** has launched a pan-India special campaign named '**Ek Pahal**' for justice delivery at the doorstep to encourage mass registration under Tele-Law.

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry addresses the G33 Virtual Informal Ministerial Meeting

- Union Minister for Commerce & Industry **Piyush Goyal** virtually addressed the **G33 Virtual Informal Ministerial Meeting** organised by Indonesia to discuss the agricultural priority issues of G33 and the way forward for the Twelfth Ministerial Conference (MC-12) scheduled to be held from 30 November 2021 to 3 December 2021.

MyGov India launches Planetarium Innovation Challenge for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs

- **MyGov India**, under the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has launched the **Planetarium Innovation Challenge** for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs.
- This challenge aims to bring together the tech firms and start-ups (based out of India) with the potential to build an indigenous planetariums system software using the latest technologies such as Augmented Reality (A.R.), Virtual Reality (V.R.) and Merged Reality (M.R.).

Union Government extends the deadline for linking PAN-Aadhaar to March 2022

- The Union Government has extended the deadline to link PAN with biometric ID Aadhaar by six months from 30 September 2021 to 31 **March 2022**.

Union Power Minister R. K. Singh addresses the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum and industry leaders

- The Union Minister of Power, New & Renewable Energy **R. K. Singh** virtually addressed the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum and industry leaders with the aim of the Government of India's priorities for the energy sector as the ministry begins to work on India's vision of energy independence by 2047.

Union Defence Ministry constitutes a High-Level Expert Committee for a comprehensive review of the National Cadet Corps

- The Union Ministry of Defence has constituted a High-Level Expert Committee headed by **Baijayant Panda** for a comprehensive review of **the National Cadet Corps (NCC)**.
- This committee will include cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, former minister Colonel (Retd.) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and industrialist Anand Mahindra.

Union Cabinet approves 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the telecom sector through an automatic route

- The Union Cabinet has approved **100 per cent** foreign direct investment (FDI) in the **telecom sector** through an automatic route.
- Foreign direct investments up to 49 per cent was allowed through the automatic route until recently, after which all FDI had to go through the government route.

Union Government allocates Rs. 9800 crores to the North-eastern states under the Jal Jeevan Mission

- The Union Government has allocated **Rs. 9800 crores** to the North-eastern states under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aimed at providing tap water to all households in India by **2024**.

Union Ministry of Railways launches Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana

- As part of the 75 years of Indian independence 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', Union Ministry of Railways has established **Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana**, a programme under the umbrella of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana to empower youngsters by providing entry-level training in industry-related skills through railway training institutes.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice President Venkaiah Naidu launch Sansad TV

- The Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla jointly launched the **Sansad TV** on the occasion of 'International Day of Democracy' to play a bridge to connect the Parliament and the people.
- Sansad TV was launched after merging the Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV channels.

India chairs the meeting of BRICS heads of tax authorities

- **India** chaired the virtual meeting of the heads of tax authorities of the BRICS countries and discussed challenges faced by tax administrations of the member countries in the digital era and in the situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

NITI Aayog launches 'Shoonya' programme to promote zero pollution delivery vehicles

- NITI Aayog, in association with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), launched an initiative '**Shoonya**' programme to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the urban deliveries segment and create consumer awareness about the benefits of zero-pollution delivery.

Nitin Gadkari launches an AI-powered road safety project to reduce accidents by 50%

- Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari launched an Artificial Intelligence-powered project, '**iRASTE**', on a pilot basis in Nagpur, Maharashtra, with the aim of reducing accidents by 50 per cent.

State News

Delhi Government launches India's first mobile music classroom & recording studio 'Music Bus'

- The **Delhi** Government has launched a '**Music Bus**' to provide training to students in audio production, film production and graphic designing.
- This bus is a transportable **music classroom** and recording studio dedicated to fuel the skills of budding musicians while motivating them to prove their spirit in the world of music.

New Delhi

- **Chief Minister:** Arvind Kejriwal
- **Governor:** Anil Baijal

Uttar Pradesh Government plans to set up an electronic park near Noida

- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** will set up an **electronic park** for electronic devices and accessories in the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) area that is expected to attract an investment of **50,000 crores** near Noida, which will provide employment to thousands of local youths.

Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital:** Lucknow
- **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel
- **National Park:** Dudhwa National Park (Tiger Reserve)

Telangana Government and UNICEF launch the second edition of the Telangana School Innovation Challenge (TSIC) 2021

- The Government of **Telangana**, in association with the **UNICEF** (United Nations Children's Fund), YuWaah and Inqui-lab Foundation, launch the second edition of the **Telangana School Innovation Challenge (TSIC) 2021** for nurturing design thinking, innovation and entrepreneurship among students.

India's 61st Software Technology Park of India centre launched in Nagaland

- Union Minister of State (MoS) for Information & Technology and Skill Development, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, inaugurated the **61st Software Technology Park of India (STPI) at Kohima, Nagaland.**

Nagaland

- **Capital:** Kohima
- **Chief Minister:** Neiphiu Rio
- **Governor:** Jagdish Mukhi

Sikkim Government declares 'Katley' as its state fish

- The Sikkim Government has declared 'Cooper Mahseer' locally named '**Katley**' as its state fish.
- Katley is a freshwater fish found in varied altitudes covering the entire state of Sikkim and is predominantly confined in Teesta and Rangit rivers and their tributaries.

Sikkim

- **Capital:** Gangtok
- **Chief Minister:** Prem Singh Tamang
- **Governor:** Ganga Prasad

Manipur's Hathei chilli and Tamenglong orange gets GI tag

- Manipur's **Tamenglong orange**, a species of the mandarin family, and a unique fruit crop found in the state along with a special chilli variety, **Hathei** have acquired the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Hyderabad Liberation Day was observed on 17 September

- **Hyderabad Liberation Day** was celebrated on 17 September to mark the historic accession of the princely state of Hyderabad into the Indian Union.

Telangana Government launches ICT policy 2.0 to achieve Rs. 3 lakh crore IT exports in the next five years

- The **Telangana Government** has launched its second Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policy with an aim to achieve Rs. 3 lakh crore IT exports in the next five years with a focus on digital empowerment of citizens, innovation and entrepreneurship and taking innovation ecosystem to global levels.
- The first ICT policy of the Telangana Government was launched in 2016.

Telangana

- **Capital:** Hyderabad
- **Chief Minister:** K. Chandrashekar Rao
- **Governor:** Tamilisai Soundararajan
- **National Parks:** KasuBrahmananda Reddy National Park, Mahaveer Harina National Park, Mrugavani National Park

Tamil Nadu Government celebrates the 143rd birthday of E. V. Periyasamy as Social Justice Day

- Tamil Nadu Government celebrated the 143rd birthday of E. V. Ramasamy, popularly known as Periyar, on 17 September as **Social Justice Day**.

Tamil Nadu

- **Capital:** Chennai
- **Chief Minister:** M. K. Stalin
- **Governor:** R. N. Ravi
- **National Parks:** Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Indira Gandhi (Annamalai) National Park, Mudumalai National Park

Uttar Pradesh Government launches 'Matra Bhumi Yojana' for the improvement of rural infrastructure

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced the launch of the 'Matra Bhumi Yojana' scheme to strengthen the participatory rural economy and infrastructure.
- Under this, every person will get a chance to directly participate in various works of infrastructure development in the villages.

Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital:** Lucknow
- **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel
- **National Park:** Dudhwa National Park (Tiger Reserve)

India's largest floating solar energy power plant was commissioned in Andhra Pradesh

- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has successfully commissioned India's largest 25 MW floating solar PV system at NTPC Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh which covers an area of 100 acres.

Andhra Pradesh

- **Capital:** Amaravati
- **Chief Minister:** Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy
- **Governor:** Biswa Bhushan Harichandan
- **Folk Dances:** Kuchipudi, Vilasini Natyam, Bhamakalpam, Veeranatyam
- **National Parks:** Sri Venkateswara National Park, Rajiv Gandhi National Park, Papikonda National Park

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1964

International News

Justin Trudeau becomes the Prime Minister of Canada for a third term

- **Justin Trudeau** became the **Canadian Prime Minister** for a third term since November 2015.
- He has now won three general elections in less than six years.
- He is the 23rd Prime Minister of Canada and the second-youngest Prime Minister in Canadian history.

Fairooz Faizah Beether of Bangladesh receives 2021 Goalkeepers Global Goals Changemaker Award

- **Fairooz Faizah Beether**, the co-founder of Moner School, has won the **2021 Goalkeepers Global Goals Changemaker Award** for her work promoting good health and well-being by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Bangladesh

- **Capital:** Dhaka
- **Currency:** Taka

The sixth edition of SCO exercise Peaceful Mission 2021 commences in Russia

- The **sixth edition of SCO exercise Peaceful Mission 2021** hosted by **Russia** started at Orenburg region of Southwest Russia, to boost close relations between the SCO member states and to enhance the abilities of the military leaders to command multinational military contingents.

Iran becomes a full permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- **Iran** has become a permanent and the **9th member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** and its permanent membership was approved during the 21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

UNESCO declares the world's first 5-country biosphere reserve 'Mura-Drava-Danube'

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated **Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD)** as the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve' to revitalise 25,000 km of rivers and protect 30 per cent of the European Union's land area by 2030.
- The biosphere reserve covers 700 kilometres of the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers and stretches across **Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia**.

India and El Salvador hold the third Foreign Office Consultations in San Salvador

- The third Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between **India and El Salvador** were held in San Salvador. Both countries discussed the full range of bilateral relations, including health, trade and investment.

World Economic Forum's annual meeting is set to take place in Switzerland's Davos in January 2022

- The annual meeting of the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** is set to take place in the Switzerland mountain resort of **Davos in January 2022**, which will focus on accelerating stakeholder capitalism, harnessing the technologies of the fourth industrial revolution and ensuring a more inclusive future of work.

The UK, US and Australia announce a trilateral security partnership named AUKUS

- The **US, UK and Australia** have announced a new trilateral security alliance named '**AUKUS**' for the Indo-Pacific to deepen diplomatic, security and defence cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Banking & Economy

BLS International Services Limited becomes National Business Correspondent for State Bank of India

- **BLS International Services Limited** was selected as the **National Business Correspondent for State Bank of India (SBI)** to deliver banking services in urban, semi-urban and rural areas across India.

- This partnership is aimed at delivering last-mile banking services to the tier-2 & tier-3 cities in India.
- For SBI account holders across India, BLS will soon launch banking services such as savings bank deposits, fixed deposits, recurring deposits, remittances, micro pension, micro insurance, account opening with e-KYC, AEPS mini statement and passbook printing.

State Bank of India (SBI)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **MD & CEO:** Dinesh Kumar Khara

Kotak Mahindra Bank launches healthcare financing solutions

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has launched its **healthcare financing solutions** ranging from healthcare infrastructure loans, medical equipment finance and unsecured healthcare loans to cater to key stakeholders in the healthcare ecosystem.
- It has introduced comprehensive offerings at an attractive interest rate to meet the financing requirements of all the key players, including lending facilities such as quick loans up to 50 lakhs with minimum documentation.

Asian Development Bank projects India's GDP growth forecast to 10 percent for FY21

- India's economic growth prediction for the fiscal year 2021 (ending in March 2022) was lowered by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to **10%** from the earlier prediction of **11%**.
- According to the ADB, rising input costs will push inflation to **5 percent**, up from the prior projection of **5.2 percent**.

Department of Telecommunications introduces self-KYC for issuing mobile connections

- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** enabled **self-KYC** for issuing mobile connections and conversion of prepaid to postpaid and vice-versa via an OTP-based process, as a part of reforms to enable a contactless, customer-centric and secure authentication for mobile subscribers.
- **Aadhaar-based e-KYC process** has been re-introduced for issuing of new mobile connections.
- In this process, the issuing of mobile connections to customers is done through an **app/portal** based online process in which a customer can apply for a mobile connection from the comfort of his/her home/office and have the SIM delivered to his/her doorstep using documents that have been electronically verified by **UIDAI** or **DigiLocker**.

OECD lowers India's GDP growth projection to 9.7 percent for FY 22

- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** cut its projection of India's economic growth to **9.7 percent** from 9.9 percent for FY22 and 7.9 percent for the next financial year.

RBL Bank and Mastercard launch a new campaign '#UseBefikar' for a seamless payment experience

- **RBL Bank** and **Mastercard** have launched a new festive campaign, **'#UseBefikar'**, in which existing cards are rewarded with shopping incentives and benefits to strike a chord with them at the start of the festive season.

Bank of Baroda and BPCL launch international co-branded debit cards

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** have launched an international co-branded **BoB BPCL RuPay NCMC Platinum contactless debit card** with various benefits, including 5 percent cashback up to 50 on the first two transactions at BPCL outlets.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai

Life Insurance Corporation launches mobile app 'PRAGATI' for its development officers

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has launched a comprehensive mobile application called **PRAGATI** (Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator) for the exclusive use of its **development officers** to give real-time information on the performance of their agency force in critical areas of business.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Managing-Director (MD):** Mini Ipe

India Post Payments Bank partners with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance for non-life insurance products

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has partnered with **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** for the distribution of their non-life insurance products across India, which includes healthcare and medical products, personal accident and motor insurance, amongst other innovative tailor-made products.

Reserve Bank of India and Finance Department conduct e-Kuber training workshops in Jammu and Kashmir

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Accounts and Treasuries, **Finance Department**, conducted training workshops on the **e-Kuber** payment system for all district treasury officers of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The purpose of this workshop was to train treasury officers on the e-Kuber payment system, which is RBI's national level payment platform for government transactions.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Formation:** 1 April 1935
- **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das
- **Deputy Governors:** M. K. Jain, M. D. Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao and T. Rabi Sankar
- **Subsidiaries:** Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran (BRBNM)

Kotak Mahindra Bank partners with IISc to set up Kotak-IISc AI-ML Centre at the IISc Campus in Bengaluru

- Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) announced a partnership to set up a state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AI-ML) Centre (Kotak-IISc AI-ML Centre) at the IISc campus in Bengaluru.

IIFL Home Finance signs a co-lending pact agreement with Punjab National Bank

- **IIFL Home Finance** signed a co-lending pact agreement with **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** to grow their loan books by 25 per cent with this association.

Punjab National Bank

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **MD & CEO:** S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao

Escorts ties up with IndusInd Bank to provide financial solutions to farmers

- **IndusInd Bank** has partnered with **Escorts Limited** to provide easy access to financial services to provide farmers with a transparent, hassle-free and quick mechanism to buy appropriate agri-based commodities such as tractors.

UNCTAD projects India's economic growth at 7.2% for 2021

- India's economic growth rate is expected to approach a four-year high of **7.2 per cent** in 2021 from a decline of 7 per cent in 2020, according to the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Founded:** 1964

Power Finance Corporation issue India's first-ever Euro Green Bonds

- **Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC)** has successfully issued its maiden €300 million 7- year Euro bond issuance, which is the first-ever Euro-denominated Green Bond issuance from India.

Appointments

Vivek Ram Chaudhari was appointed as the next Chief of the Air Staff (CAS)

- Vice-Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) Air Marshal **Vivek Ram Chaudhari** was appointed as the IAF's next Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) replacing R. K. S. Bhaduria, who will retire on 30 September.

Uday Kotak gets an extension as Non-Executive Chairman of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS) for another six months

- The Union Government has extended the term of **Uday Kotak** as Non-Executive Chairman of **Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS)** for another six months till **2 April 2022**.
- His current term through various extensions is scheduled to expire on 2 October 2021.

Former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown was appointed as WHO's Ambassador for Global Health Financing

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has appointed the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, **Gordon Brown** as its ambassador for Global Health Financing.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Founded:** 1948

Charanjeet Singh Channi was appointed as the new Chief Minister of Punjab

- **Charanjit Singh Channi** was appointed as the **16th Chief Minister of Punjab** following the resignation of Captain Amarinder Singh.
- He became the first Dalit Chief Minister of Punjab.

Facebook India appoints Rajiv Aggarwal as its Director of Public Policy

- Facebook India appointed former IAS officer **Rajiv Aggarwal** as the Director of Public Policy. He has served as the Head of Public Policy for India and South Asia of Uber.
- He replaced **Ankhi Das**.

Amit Saxena joins as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of RBI Innovation Hub

- The Global Deputy Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of State Bank of India, **Amit Saxena**, has joined as the **Chief Technology Officer (CTO)** of **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Innovation Hub.

Pankaj Tripathy was appointed as the brand ambassador for Fino Payments Bank

- Fino Payments Bank has appointed **Pankaj Tripathi** as its brand ambassador for a two-year engagement for promoting its products and services.

Jagdish Mukhi takes oath as the Governor of Nagaland

- **Jagdish Mukhi** took oath as the **20th Governor of Nagaland** as an additional charge after succeeding R. N. Ravi, who took charge as the Governor of Tamil Nadu.
- Jagdish Mukhi is currently serving as the Governor of **Assam**.

Alka Nangia Arora assumes the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC)

- **Alka Nangia Arora** assumed the additional charge of the post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of the **National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC)**.
- She is currently serving as Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.

National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC)

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

Amit Narang was appointed as the Ambassador of India to Oman

- The incumbent joint secretary in the Union Ministry of External Affairs, **Amit Narang**, was appointed as the **Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman**.
- He succeeded Munu Mahawar.

Munu Mahawar was appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Maldives

- The incumbent Ambassador of India to the Oman **Munu Mahawar** was appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Maldives.

Liz Truss was appointed as the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom

- **Liz Truss** was appointed as the new Foreign Secretary, Commonwealth and Development Affairs and also Minister for Women and Equalities of the United Kingdom.
- She replaced **Dominic Raab**.

Ranks and Indices

India ranks 46th in the Global Innovation Index 2021

- India has climbed two spots to **46** from 48 in the **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021** released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- Switzerland topped the index and remains the world's leader in innovation for the 11th consecutive year. Sweden ranks 2nd in the index.

Awards and Recognitions

UST wins two ISG Digital Case Study Awards 2021

- A leading digital transformation solutions company UST has been recognized by Information Services Group (ISG) with two **ISG Digital Case Study Awards 2021**, which is presented to select IT and business services providers for best-in-class digital transformation work with their enterprise clients.

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind presents the National Florence Nightingale Award 2020 to Brigadier S. V. Saraswati

- Indian President Ram Nath Kovind presented the **National Florence Nightingale Award 2020** to Deputy Director-General of Military Nursing Service (MNS) Brigadier S.V. Saraswati for selfless devotion and exceptional professionalism.

Six Indian B-schools were ranked in the global top 100 of Financial Times Ranking 2021

- A total of six institutes across India have secured a place in the top 100 as the best B-schools in India globally according to the latest ranking by **Financial Times for Masters in Management (MIM)**.
- **IIM-Ahmedabad** was ranked as the best B-school in India.
- As per the ranking, the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland has topped the Financial Times 2021 Ranking 2021 for the 11th year in a row.

Euromoney Magazine names DBS Bank as the ‘World’s Best Bank’

- **DBS Bank** was named as the ‘World’s Best Bank’ by Euromoney Magazine.
- This is the first time an Asian-headquartered bank has been named ‘World’s Best Bank’ by Euromoney since the award was launched in 1993.

Rajbhasha Keerthi Puraskar Award was presented to National Mineral Development Limited

- The most prestigious ‘**Rajbhasha Keerthi Puraskar**’ Award was presented to National Mineral Development Limited (NMDC) under the Union Ministry of Steel during the Rajbhasha Diwas Samaroh in New Delhi.

UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2021 was awarded to NIOS for innovation in education

- The **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)** was awarded the **UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2021** for its programme on ‘Enabling education of persons with disabilities (PWDs) through technology-enabled inclusive learning material with a specific focus on Indian Sign Language (ISL) based content’ at an event organised in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mamata Banerjee are among the TIME’s 100 Most Influential People List

- TIME magazine has listed Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** and Serum Institute of India CEO **Adar Poonawalla** among the 100 most influential people in the world for 2021.
- The US President Joe Biden and the US Vice-President Kamala Harris were among the others on the list.

Agreements and MoUs signed

Flipkart Wholesale partners with Davinta to offer 'Buy Now Pay Later' credit facilities to retailers

- The B2B marketplace of Flipkart Group, **Flipkart Wholesale**, has partnered with SME lending platform **Davinta** to offer 'Buy Now Pay Later' credit facilities to all its retailers as an alternative for those who struggle to be eligible for traditional credit constructs such as credit cards.

HDFC Bank and Paytm jointly launch co-branded credit cards powered by VISA

- **HDFC Bank and Paytm** launched a comprehensive range of credit cards powered by VISA, which aims to provide one of the widest range of offerings across customer segments with a special focus on millennials, business owners and merchants.

BYJU'S and NITI Aayog partner to provide free education to children

- **BYJU'S** partnered with **NITI Aayog** to provide children from 112 aspirational districts free access to high-quality education and tech-driven learning programmes.

TRIFED and BigBasket enter into an MoU for the promotion and sale of natural Van Dhan products

- The **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)** and **Big Basket** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the promotion and sale of natural Van Dhan goods made accessible to Big Basket by Van Dhan producing units.

Meenakshi Lekhi signs an agreement on labour mobility and facilitating recruitment of Indian citizens in Portugal

- During the visit to Portugal, Union Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi met with Secretary of State for International Affairs and Cooperation of Portugal Francisco Andre and signed a labour mobility agreement to make it easier for the recruitment of Indian residents to work in Portugal.

Defence News

Indian and Indonesian navies conduct the third edition of 'Samudra Shakti' Exercise in Indonesia

- The Indian and Indonesian navies took part in the third edition of the bilateral maritime exercise 'Samudra Shakti' in **Indonesia** to strengthen the bilateral relationship, enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between the two navies.
- This exercise will also provide an appropriate platform to share best practices and develop a common understanding of maritime security operations.

Indo-Nepal joint military exercise ‘Surya Kiran 15’ begins in Uttarakhand

- A 14-day long joint military exercise of India and Nepal named ‘**Surya Kiran 15**’ began in the Uttarakhand’s **Pithoragarh** district to establish military relations in remote mountainous locations, as well as give humanitarian aid under disaster management and to get training in anti-terrorist operations.

Eastern Naval Command celebrates 36th International Coastal Cleanup Day at Vishakapatnam

- The **36th International Coastal Cleanup Day** was celebrated consecutively for the tenth year by Eastern Naval Command (ENC) at Yarada Beach, Bheemili Beach and other sea fronts within premises of naval units at **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh.

India launches its first satellite and ballistic missile tracking ship INS Dhruv

- India has launched its first nuclear-missile tracking ship **INS Dhruv** which will be India’s first naval vessel that is capable of tracking nuclear missiles at a long-range. The 10,000-tonne vessel was commissioned from Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

India participates in SCO counter-terror military exercise in Russia

- An Indian military force took part in the sixth edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) ‘**Peaceful Mission**’ 2021 exercise, which aimed to strengthen ties between the SCO member states in Orenburg, Russia, from 13–25 September.

Science & Technology

SpaceX launches first all tourist crew into orbit

- **SpaceX** has launched a billionaire-funded crew of space tourists into orbit from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- The Inspiration4 mission sent four people into orbit for three days aboard a Crew Dragon spaceship in which the crew members will do scientific research, make art and take in the views.

Books and Authors

Union Defence Minister launches a new book titled ‘Shining Sikh Youth of India’

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released a new book titled ‘**Shining Sikh Youth of India**’ authored by Prabhleen Singh.
- This book covers 100 inspirational and motivational success stories of Sikh youths in India who have done exemplary work in their respective fields.

Sports

Raja Rithvik becomes the 70th Chess Grandmaster of India

- At a recent event in Hungary, **Raja Rithvik** became **India’s 70th** and most recent **Chess Grandmaster**, achieving his third and final norm against Vaclav Finek.

Pankaj Advani wins the Asian Snooker Championship 2021

- **Pankaj Advani** of India won the **Asian Snooker Championship 2021** held in Qatar for a second consecutive time by defeating Amir Sarkhosh.

2022 Hangzhou Asian Games will feature eight esports titles as medal events

- According to an announcement from the Olympic Council of Asia, **eight esports** will appear at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.
- The eight esports are Arena of Valor, Dota 2, Dream Three Kingdoms 2, Hearth Stone, FIFA, Street Fighter V, League of Legends and PUBG Mobile.

Virat Kohli announces his decision to step down as the captain of Indian T20 team after ICC T20 World Cup 2021

- Indian cricket team captain **Virat Kohli** has announced that he will step down as captain of the Indian T20 cricket team after the ICC T20 World Cup 2021 which is scheduled to be held in the United Arab Emirates and Oman from 17 October 2021 to 14 November 2021.
- He will continue to captain the Indian squad in Tests and One-Day Internationals.

Important Days

World Rhino Day – 22 September

- **World Rhino Day** is observed on **22 September** to make people more aware of the African and Asian species of rhinos and encourage people to take steps for their conservation.
- This day was announced by the World Wildlife Fund – South Africa in 2010. This day got international recognition in 2011.
- The Theme of World Rhino Day 2021 is ‘**Keep the Five Alive**’.

International Day of Peace – 21 September

- The **International Day of Peace** is observed around the world on **21 September** every year to strengthen the ideals of peace through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.
- Theme: ‘**Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world**’.

World Alzheimer’s Day – 21 September

- **World Alzheimer’s Day** is observed worldwide on **21 September** every year to boost awareness and highlight the challenges faced by people suffering from dementia.
- The theme for world alzheimer’s month in 2021 is ‘**Know dementia, know Alzheimer’s**’.

International Week of Deaf People – 20 September 2021 to 26 September 2021

- The **International Week of Deaf People** is observed from **20 September 2021 to 26 September 2021** to recognise that deaf people have our own communities, our own cultures, our own languages and sign languages, which unite us all.
- Theme: “**Celebrating Thriving Deaf Communities**”.

World Bamboo Day – 18 September

- **World Bamboo Day** is observed on **18 September** every year and it focuses on the awareness of bamboo plantations.
- It was first formally organised on 18 September 2009 in Bangkok. It was incorporated at the 8th World Bamboo Congress.

International Red Panda Day – 18 September

- The **International Red Panda Day** is observed on the third Saturday of September every year. This year (2021), the day will be observed on 18 September.
- This day seeks to inspire people to learn more about Red Pandas and to contribute to the conservation of the habitat in which they reside.

World Water Monitoring Day – 18 September

- **World Water Monitoring Day** is observed on **18 September** every year to increase public participation and knowledge about the conservation of water resources around the world by ensuring that residents are enabled to conduct standard monitoring of their local water bodies.

World Patient Safety Day – 17 September

- The **World Patient Safety Day** is observed worldwide by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** on **17 September** to enhance global understanding of patient safety, increase public engagement in the safety of health care and promote global actions to enhance patient safety and reduce patient harm.
- Theme: “**Safe maternal and newborn care**”

World Ozone Day – 16 September

- **World Ozone Day**, also known as International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, is observed on **16 September** every year to focus global attention and action on vital environmental issues regarding ozone.
- Theme 2021: ‘**Montreal Protocol – keeping us, our food and vaccines cool**’.

Obituary

Former editor of Odia daily Manorama Mohapatra passed away

- The former editor of the largest Odia daily ‘Samaja’, **Manorama Mohapatra** passed away at 87.
- She had won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1984, Soviet Nehru Award in 1988, Critic Circle of India Award in 1990, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar Samman in 1991 and Rupambara Award in 1994.

Advocate General of Arunachal Pradesh Nilayananda Dutta passed away

- Arunachal Pradesh Advocate General **Nilayananda Dutta** died of a massive heart attack at the age of 68.

- He was a member of the high-level committee constituted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in 2019 for the recommendations on the implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.

Former England football legend Jimmy Greaves passed away

- The former England football player and Tottenham striker **Jimmy Greaves** passed away at the age of 81.

Former Algerian President Bouteflika passed away

- Former Algerian President **Abdelaziz Bouteflika** has passed away at the age of 84.
- He was a veteran of Algeria's war for independence and had ruled the North African country for two decades before his resignation in April 2019 after street demonstrations rejecting his plan to seek a fifth term.

Former Gabonese Prime Minister Casimir Oye Mba passed away

- Gabon's former Prime Minister Casimir Oye Mba passed away at the age of 79 after contracting the coronavirus.

Former Indian footballer Bhabani Roy passed away

- Former Indian Mohun Bagan football legend **Bhabani Roy** passed away in Kolkata after a prolonged illness at the age of 75.

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