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August-2021

Current Affair

MOU/Agreement Countries:

- Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) and The Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), the Netherlands for carrying out the Academic programmes and Research activities.
- Indian and American bodies have signed an agreement on monsoon data analysis and cooperation to improve weather forecasts in the region.
- India and Maldives will sign a contract on the mega Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP), the largest infrastructure project in the country. The project, funded by an Indian grant of \$100 m and a Line of Credit of \$400 m is also the biggest new development project by India in its neighbourhood in recent years.
- Union Cabinet has also approved the signing Memorandum of Understanding between an Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Institute of Professional Accountants of Russia.

MOU Industry/States/Others:

- Meghalaya State Investment Promotion Society (MSIP) signed an MoU with Invest India of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to boost trade and industries in the state.
- Nano Biotechnology Research Centre (NBRC), the research and development unit of the fertiliser cooperative Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), in Gujarat, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi for research consultancy, knowledge transfer, and collaborative projects.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has joined hands with Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) to provide better storage facilities.
- National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India has entered into an MoU with Punjab National Bank to extend financial assistance through the Bank.
- Himachal Pradesh State Handicrafts and Handloom Corporation has signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with online retailer Flipkart for online sale and promotion of the products made by local artisans and craftsmen to customers across the globe.
- Flipkart and IIM Sambalpur announced a partnership to support and promote small businesses, artisans and weavers.
- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for setting up a unit in the UP Defence Corridor.
- UNICEF India and Facebook launched a one-year joint initiative to end violence against children with a special focus on online safety.
- India Insurtech Association (IIA), a not-for-profit body promoting tech-driven insurance ecosystems in India inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with International Financial Services Centre at GIFT City, (GIFT-IFSC) to collaborate on building thought leadership in the field of insurance and promoting GIFT City for Indian and foreign insurance companies.
- ADB tied up with IIFL Home Finance to promote green housing in India.
- Tamil Nadu Government is in consultation with Germany to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to procure 2,500 buses for public transport.
- International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) have extended their collaboration to facilitate international trade, particularly e-commerce.
- Recognising the role of innovations to strengthen India's response to COVID-19 crisis and preparedness for emerging healthcare needs, the National Health Authority has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. Through this partnership, the National Health Authority (NHA) will be a technical collaborator on the US Agency for International Development (USAID)-supported SAMRIDH Healthcare Blended Financing Facility.
- Indian Bank stated that has signed an MOU with Paralympic Committee of India to become one of the Banking Partners ahead of the Paralympic Games, Tokyo 2020.
- IIT Madras will collaborate with Road Transport Ministry on pavement engineering and intelligent transportation systems.
- Ministry of Tourism has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MakeMyTrip (India) Private Limited and Ibibo Group Private Limited in a bid to strengthen the hospitality and tourism industry especially in the times of the pandemic.
- Tata Motors and the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) strengthened their long-term partnership with the launch of an initiative to win a gold medal in the next edition of Olympics. The initiative, 'Quest for Gold at Paris Olympics 2024', is a holistic development programme with the singular objective to win the coveted gold medal at the next Olympics.
- Paytm has signed an agreement with IT ministry's startup hub to scale deep-tech startups by providing access to platform, knowledge series, experts, resources, and larger community of stakeholders.

Appointments and Resignations:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Post</i>	<i>Other Info</i>
B D Mishra	Governor of Mizoram	
La Ganesan	Governor of Manipur	
Banwarilal Purohit	Additional Charge of Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Union Territory of Chandigarh	
Deepak Das	25 th Controller General of Accounts	
Ajay Kumar Bhalla	Union Home Secretary	

Abhay Kumar Singh	Joint Secretary in Ministry Of Cooperation	
Vijaya Lakshmi Nadendla, Priya Ranjan	Joint Secretaries in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	
Kavita Garg	Joint Secretary in the Ministry of AYUSH	
Kavita Singh	Joint Secretary in Cabinet Secretariat	
Vibhu Nayar	Executive Director, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) under the Department of Commerce	
Madnesh Kumar Mishra	Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Culture	
Pramod Kumar Meherda	Managing Director in National Food Security Mission (NFSM) under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare with additional charge of the post of secretary, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB)	
Dinesh Kumar	Joint Secretary in Department of Defence	
Vedveer Arya	Additional FA and joint secretary in the Ministry of Defence (Finance)	
Sreekanth T	Deputy Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India	
Shailendra Singh	Deputy Director General (DDG), UIDAI	
Sanjay Kumar	Additional FA and joint secretary, Ministry of Defence (Finance)	
Rajiv Gauba	Cabinet Secretary	
Apurva Chandra	Secretary in Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	
Vice Admiral SN Ghormade	Vice Chief of the Indian Navy	
Pankaj Kumar Singh	Director General of Border Security Force	
Rekha Sharma	Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW)	
R K Vishnoi	Chairman and Managing Director of THDC India Limited (THDCIL)	
Amit Banerjee	CMD of BEML Limited	
Mini Ipe	Managing Director of the IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)	
Sandeep Bakhshi	MD and CEO of ICICI Bank	
S S Mallikarjuna Rao	MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank	
Atul Kumar Goel	MD and CEO of UCO Bank	
A S Rajeev	MD and CEO of Bank of Maharashtra	
Shanti Lal Jain	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank	
Nadir Godrej	Chairman of Godrej Industries Limited (GIL)	Will succeed Adi Godrej
Kamlesh Kumar Pant	Chairman of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)	
Prakash Chandra	Non-Executive Chairman of RBL Bank	
Carol Furtado	Officer on Special Duty (OSD) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	
Hitendra Dave	Chief Executive Officer, HSBC India	
N K Singh	President of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society	succeeds Dr Manmohan Singh
T M Bhasin	Chairman of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF)	
Nakul Chopra	CEO of Broadcast Audience Research Council India (BARC)	Will succeed Sunil Lulla
Dhriti Banerjee	First Woman Director of Zoological Survey of India	
Chacha Chaudhary	Promoter of Faridabad Smart City Limited's initiatives on social media	
Neeraj Chopra	Brand Ambassador of A public awareness campaign by RBI to warn people against digital banking frauds	
Mahendra Singh Dhoni	The first brand ambassador of HomeLane	
Pawandeep Rajan	Uttarakhand's Brand Ambassador for Art, Tourism, Culture	Indian Idol

		12winner
Vandana Katariya	Brand Ambassador of Uttarakhand's Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development	
Saikhom Mirabai Chanu	Brand Ambassador for Amway's Nutrilite range	
P.R. Sreejesh	Brand Ambassador of Adventure tourism in Kerala	
Narain Karthikeyan	Brand Ambassador of JK Tyre & Industries	
Sonu Sood	Brand Ambassador of Delhi government's 'Desh Ke Mentor' programme	
John Abraham	Brand Ambassador for MotoGP	
Rajkummar Rao	Cashify's first Brand Ambassador	
Alia Bhatt	Brand Ambassador of Samsung's premium Galaxysmartphones	
Priyanka Chopra Jonas	Global Brand Ambassador of Bvlgari	
Priyanka Chopra Jonas	Chairperson of Jio MAMI Film Festival	
Ayushman Khurrana	UNICEF's Celebrity Advocate for their global campaign EVAC(Ending Violence Against Children)	
Mansukh Mandaviya	Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Board	
Nikol Pashinyan	Prime Minister of Armenia	
Min Aung Hlaing	Prime Minister of Myanmar	
Ismail Sabri Yaakob	Prime Minister of Malaysia	Will succeed Muhyiddin Yassin
Ebrahim Raisi	President of Iran	
Hakainde Hichilema	President of Zambia	
Amrullah Saleh	Afghanistan's "legitimate caretaker President".	
Mohammad Mokhber	Vice President of Iran	

Resignations

Kumar Mangalam Birla has stepped down as non-executive director and non-executive chairman of VodafoneIdea.

Nitin Chugh, the managing director and chief executive officer (MD&CEO) of Ujjivan Small FinanceBank, has resigned

Sjoerd Marijne stepped down as the coach of the women's national hockey team.

Tunisia's President dismissed the Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi.

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country after he stepped down from his post following Taliban's advancement in Kabul.

Malaysia's Muhyiddin Yassin has stepped down as prime minister after months of political turmoil culminated in the loss of his majority.

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has promoted three new officials to the post of executive directors (EDs). AjayKumar, A.K. Choudhary and Deepak Kumar are the three officers in Grade F who have been promoted as executive directors for the year 2021-22.
- Nine new judges, including three women, were administered oath of office as judges of the Supreme Court,taking its strength to 33.
Names of 9 new Supreme Court Judges:
 - 1) Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka
 - 2) Justice Vikram Nath
 - 3) Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari
 - 4) Justice Hima Kohli
 - 5) Justice B V Nagarathna.
 - 6) Justice C T Ravikumar
 - 7) Justice M M Sundresh
 - 8) Justice Bela M Trivedi
 - 9) Justice P S Narasimha

Awards and Recognitions:

<i>Award Name</i>	<i>Person/Institution</i>	<i>Extra Knowledge</i>
Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021	Cyrus Poonawalla	He is the founder-chairperson of the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII)
Canada's prestigious Order of British Columbia Award	Ajay Dilwari	
Prof CR Rao Centenary Gold Medal (CGM) by Indian Econometric Society (TIES) Trust	Dr Jagdish Bhagwati and Dr C Rangarajan	
'Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation' for the year 2021	Rita Debnath of Tripura Police	
National Youth Award	Mohammad Azam, Telangana	
Congressional Gold Medal by USA	Mahatma Gandhi	the first Indian to receive a Congressional Gold Medal
Sri Basava International Award	Sri Basavaliga Pattaddevaru	Senior seer of Bhalki Hiremath
Golden Peacock National Training Award 2021	Sai Life Sciences	one of India's fastest growing Contract Research, Development & Manufacturing Organizations (CRDMOs)
Sahitya Akademi Award Winner 2020	Yashodhara Mishra, Odia Omcherry N.N. Pillai, Malayalam	for their work Samudrakula Ghara and Akasmikam Omcheriyute Ormmakkurippukal respectively
'District Green Champion' for the academic year 2020-21 by the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE), Ministry of Education, Government of India	Chitkara University, Patiala	
AI Gamechanger Award at the Xperience-AI Summit organised by NASSCOM	Telangana government's Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (ITE&C) Department	
Most Innovative in Digital Banking by Financial Times publication	DBS	
National Science Foundation Innovation-Corps (NSF I-Corps) Teams Award in USA	SoftWorthy	
Brunel Medal awarded by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), London	Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project, Bhutan	

Recognitions

Government of West Bengal has received four SKOCH awards for its schemes under the Ease of Doing Business initiative. The State scheme 'Silpasathi'-the online single window portal won the platinum award while the Auto Renewal of Certificate of Enlistment through online system for urban areas has received the gold award.
The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, the highest sporting honour of India, has been renamed Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
Nagaland has bagged seven prestigious national awards in the Van Dhan Vikas Yojana (VDVY) and Minimum Support Price (MSP) schemes for exemplary performance in various categories. Nagaland topped in three categories — Best Survey, Best Training and the most number of Van Dhan Vikas Clusters (VDVKCs) established.
Four more Indian sites – two each from Haryana and Gujarat – have been recognised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, taking the number of such sites in the country to 46.
All India Radio Live streams on NewsOnAir App are getting popular across the world. In the latest world rankings on

the popularity of AIR Live-Streams on NewsOnAir App , Fiji displaced United Kingdom to follow United States and Australia in the top three ranks.

A 19-year old Pakistani climber became the youngest person in the world to reach the summit of K2, thesecond-highest peak in the world.

Doha's Hamad International Airport has been named the world's best airport on Skytrax's annual ranking

A worldwide COVID-19 study led by UK experts and conducted at Indian hospitals among others around theworld has been awarded the 'Guinness World Records' title for the world's largest scientific collaboration, involving over 140,000 patients in 116 countries.

List of the world's top 10 airports of 2021:

1. Hamad International Airport
2. Tokyo Haneda Airport
3. Singapore Changi Airport
4. Incheon International Airport
5. Narita International Airport
6. Munich Airport
7. Zurich Airport
8. London Heathrow Airport
9. Kansai International Airport
10. Hong Kong International Airport

Conference and Summits:

Summit	Place/Host	Extra Knowledge
DefExpo-2022	Gandhinagar,Gujarat	
First Internet Governance Forum	India	<i>Theme-</i> Inclusive Internet forDigital India
United Nations World Geospatial InformationCongress (UNWGIC) 2022	India	<i>Theme-</i> Towards Geo-enabling the Global Village
G20 Culture Ministers Meeting	Rome, Italy	
27th UPU Congress	Abidjan, Côté d'Ivoire	
First ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment	Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy	

- Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel inaugurated the "India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit" organised by the Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC) withsupport from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Department of Commerce.

International News:

- Germany became the 5th country to sign International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement.
- US has approved the sale of Harpoon Joint Common Test Set (JCTS) and related equipment to India for an estimated cost of \$82 million.
- The lightest trainset and Pune's first metro was unveiled in Italy.
- Bangladesh has decided to accept the invitation to join the Coalition for Disaster ResilientInfrastructure (CDRI).
- India has joined the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, CPLP as Associate Observer in Julythis year.
- In a world first, South Africa granted a patent to an artificial intelligence system.
- DABUS(which stands for"device for the autonomous bootstrapping of unified sentence") is an AI system created by Stephen Thaler, a pioneer in the field of AI and programming.
- World Health Organization (WHO) has said that the next step in the search of the origins of Covid-19 willbe the creation of a new advisory group, International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens, or SAGO, that will develop a global framework to study pathogens with pandemic potential.

- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) signed an agreement for cooperation in remotesensing satellite data sharing, according to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- In late 2020, Amazon had launched celebrity Samuel L Jackson of Pulp Fiction fame's voice for Alexa in the US and other western markets and now, it is introducing the iconic deep baritone voice of Amitabh Bachchan to the smart speakers.
- The first delivery of 'green steel' was done in Sweden by Hybrit to truck-manufacturer Volvo AB as a trial run.
- India is among four South Asian countries where children are most at risk of the impacts of climate change threatening their health, education, and protection, according to a new UNICEF report. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India are among four South Asian countries where children are at extremely high risk of the impacts of the climate crisis.
- NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India, jointly launched the 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport' in India as part of the NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project.
- Dubai has formed a specialist court that will focus on fighting money laundering and other financial crimes, as the emirate seeks to strengthen the integrity of its financial system and support nationwide efforts to clamp down on money laundering.
- The world's largest and tallest observation wheel will open in the UAE on October 21.
- India has won the elections for membership of two key bodies of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), during the 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- Department of Biotechnology under the Ministry of Science and Technology is implementing the SARS-CoV-2 NGS-BRICS consortium and multicentric programme to study the impact of severe Covid-19 conditions on TB patients in collaboration with the BRICS countries.
- Government of India has contributed almost USD one million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Zimbabwe to help affected populations tackle climate shocks.

National News:

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri. Mansukh Mandaviya presided over the 112th Annual Day celebrations of National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) along with Dr. Bharati Pawar, MoS (HFW).
- Prime Minister Modi launched multiple educational initiatives including Academic Bank of Credits, National Digital Education Architecture and other initiatives to mark the completion of one year of reforms under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- The government has launched the Secured Logistics Document Exchange (SLDE) along with a Calculator for Green House Gas Emission to improve ease of doing business, logistics efficiency, reduce logistics cost, and promote multi-modality and sustainability.
- Union Cabinet cleared changes to the deposit insurance laws to provide funds up to Rs 5 lakh to an account holder within 90 days in the event of a bank coming under the moratorium imposed by the RBI. The government has also permitted raising the deposit insurance premium by 20 per cent immediately, and maximum by 50 per cent.
- Government has allocated over 756 crore rupees under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles, FAME scheme till June this year.
- NITI Aayog released a report which presents reform pathways to transform the country's power distribution sector. The report, titled 'Turning Around the Power Distribution Sector', is co-authored by NITI Aayog, RMI and RMI India.
- The government will implement the Deep Ocean Mission at a total budget of over 4,077 crore rupees for five years.
- Ministry of Science and Technology has allocated over Rs 1,600 crore for COVID-19 related research and product development.
- Centre has disbursed One thousand 253 Crore rupees to fund UDAN scheme, from the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCF) levy and Viability Gap Funding (VGF) from the collected One thousand 904 Crore rupees, till now.
- Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has released an amount of over 685 crore to four States for providing grants to the Urban Local Bodies, ULBs.
- Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has finished constructing India's and world's highest motorable road built at a height of 19300 ft, this road passes Umlingla Pass in Eastern Ladakh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will invite India's Olympic contingent to the Red Fort as special guests on August

15.

- The government has set the loans disbursement target under the PM Mudra Yojana (PMMY) at Rs 3trillion for the current financial year as compared to Rs 3.21 trillion sanctioned in FY21.
- In a first in India, Lakshadweep will soon have water villas similar to those in the Maldives.
- The first National Heart Failure Biobank (NHFB) in the country that would collect blood, biopsies, and clinical data as a guide to future therapies was inaugurated at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually transferred about Rs 19,500 crore to over 9.75 crore beneficiaries farmers under the government's PM-KISAN scheme.
- Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu released a commemorative postage stamp on 'Mananiya Chaman Lal' at a public function at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Conference Hall, 6, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi.
- Centre will spend ₹11,000 crore for a new mission to ensure self-sufficiency in edible oil production at a time when India's dependence on expensive imports has driven retail oil prices to new highs.
- Earth Sciences Ministry will implement Deep Ocean Mission at a total budget of 4077 crore rupees in the five years.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a high-level open debate on 'Enhancing Maritime Security A Case for International Cooperation' via video conferencing. This would be the first time that an Indian Prime Minister would be presiding over a meeting of the UN Security Council.
- India's total installed renewable energy generation capacity crossed 100 GW mark and the country is fourth in the world in terms of installed renewable energy capacity.
- Uttar Pradesh government has renamed the 'Kakori Kand' to 'Kakori Train action'.
- Narendra Modi has launched Ujjwala 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana – PMUY) by handing over LPG connections, at Mahoba Uttar Pradesh via video conferencing.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched 'Son Chirya' – a brand and logo – for marketing the products of Urban Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- Odisha, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal pollution control boards have been rated the most transparent in disclosing key environment and governance-related information in the public domain.
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched an online portal Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services, or TAPAS, to offer massive open online courses (MOOC). TAPAS has been developed by the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the National Hydrogen Mission (NHM) on India's 75th Independence Day, saying that the aim is to make the country a global hub for the production and export of green hydrogen.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a Rs 100 lakh crore Gati Shakti National infrastructure master plan aimed at bringing employment opportunities to the youth and helping develop new economic zones across the country.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released capitalization support funds to the tune of Rs. 1625 Crore to over 4 lakh Self Help Groups (SHG).
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has approved proposals for the construction of 16 thousand 488 houses at the 55th meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U).
- Union Health & Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has announced a package of more than 1300 crore rupees for the infrastructure development in health sector of North Eastern states.
- Union Cabinet has given its approval to launch a new Mission on Oil palm to be known as the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) with financial outlay of 11,040 crore rupees. It will be a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a special focus on the North east region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- An all-women team of the three armed forces successfully scaled Mt Manirang in Himachal Pradesh on August 15 and unfurled the national flag to celebrate the 75th Independence Day.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched an ambitious 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund' -USF for export-oriented firms and startups in a program at Lucknow.
- Centre has notified Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products- RoDTEP Scheme Guidelines and Rates.
- Union Minister for Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh has said that India is going to have 35 more earthquake Observatories by the end of this year.
- Supreme Court has issued an interim order where it has allowed women to take the National Defence Academy (NDA) exam which is scheduled on September 5, 2021.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a ₹6 lakh crore National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP),

which is a four-year pipeline for those infrastructure assets that the government plans to monetise for generating funds.

- With an aim to boost the start-up ecosystem in the country, the Ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology (MeitY) launched Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and growth (SAMRIDH).
- Jal Shakti Ministry began SUJALAM, a 100 days campaign as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to create more and more ODF Plus villages by undertaking waste water management at village level.
- Centre has announced Drone Rules-2021 which reduced the Yellow Zone from 45 kilometres to 12 kilometres from the airport perimeter.
- Centre has formed a committee to streamline revenue litigation pending before the Supreme Court.
- Central government's flagship financial inclusion programme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana completes seven years on August 28, 2021.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman promised that a Rs 1300-crore project for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure Development for Tripura's Tribal areas would be cleared within the next 10 days.
- Government introduced a new registration mark for new vehicles under the "Bharat series (BH-series)" to facilitate seamless transfer of vehicles, informed Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways.
- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal announced a slew of major initiatives planned to boost the traditional medicinal practices in the North-Eastern states at a Conference of Ayush and Health Ministers of North Eastern states in Guwahati.
- Ministry of Coal in India launched the Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2021, as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

State News:

Andhra Pradesh

- Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has recognised three municipal corporations in Andhra Pradesh with 'Water Plus' certification. With this, Andhra Pradesh has become the first state to be recognized with more than one 'Water Plus' certified municipal corporation

Assam

- Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNP & TR) of Assam, globally famed for being a sanctuary to the one-horned rhino, has become the first national park in the country to equip its forest guards with satellite phones as an anti-poaching measure.
- Assam Electronics Development Corporation Limited (AMTRON) has signed a MoU with Corsight AI, an Israel-based company to set up an Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence at a Tech City situated near Guwahati.

Chhattisgarh

- Chhattisgarh became the first state to recognise Community Forest Resource Rights in an urban area.
- Chhattisgarh will have 4 new districts, Mohla-Manpur, Sakti, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh and Manendragarh.
- Chhattisgarh government launched Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Krishi Majdur Nyay Yojana, under which financial assistance of ₹6,000 per year will be given to the landless families in the state.

Delhi

- The "Delhi@2047" initiative, which aims to facilitate partnerships with the private sector, CSR initiatives and philanthropic organisations to make the capital a global city by 2047, was launched by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.
- Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has assured all help for establishing the first Bio-Bank of the world in Ayurveda at All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi.
- Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the transport department's 'faceless' services.
- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the world's second-largest refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa in New Delhi.
- All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), Delhi, has become the first hospital in India to house a fire station inside the hospital premises.
- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated the country's first smog tower at Baba Kharak Singh Marg in the Connaught Place area in the national capital.

Gujarat

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched eNagar mobile application and portal.
- Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and Wadhvana Wetland in Gujarat have been included in the Ramsar list.

Haryana

- Haryana created history, secured first place in CCTNS, score 100%.
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the first-of-its-kind 'Har Hith' store scheme to promote the sale of quality products of daily need at reasonable prices.
- In a bid to ensure pathway for MSME products to International market, Haryana Government signed MoU with 'Walmart Vriddhi' and 'Haqdarshak' company.
- For the first time, two wetlands in Haryana – Sultanpur National Park in Gurgaon and Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary in Jhajjar – have been included in the Ramsar list.
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced to rename the Hisar Airport as Maharaja Agrasen International Airport.

Jammu & Kashmir

- In a bid to bring more transparency and accountability in the governance system, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched PROOF 'Photographic Record of On-site Facility' app.
- J & K Government issued orders for giving a fresh impetus to the training in handicraft sector in the UT by unveiling the 'KARKHANDAR' scheme which is a unique concept as far the upliftment of artisans and weavers through training is concerned.
- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Commandant General, Home Guards and SDRF, V.K Singh and Principal Government Medical College, Jammu, Dr. Shashi Sudan inaugurated SUKoon, a 24x7 Mental Health Helpline at SDRF Headquarters, Jammu

Karnataka

- Karnataka has become the first state in the country to provide one per cent reservation for the 'transgender' community in all the government services.
- Karnataka Government has issued an order to implement the National Education Policy from the current academic year 2021-22, becoming the first to do so.
- Keralites all over the world celebrated Thiruvonam on 21st August, the most important day of the Onam festival.
- Karnataka has become the first state in the country to officially implement the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020.

Kerala

- Kerala government launched the 'COVID-19 death information portal' in the state to maintain a proper record of the number of deaths due to the virus.
- Kerala police launched a first-of-its-kind Drone Forensic Lab and Research Centre with an aim to address the rising concerns in this regard.

Ladakh

- Union Territory of Ladakh launched a month-long campaign – 'Pani Maah' (water month) with an aim to increase the pace of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in the UT and to inform and engage village communities on the importance of clean water.
- A newly launched mobile digital movie theatre in Ladakh has made history as the highest theatre in the world.

Madhya Pradesh

- Indore has now been declared as the first Water Plus city of the country.
- In Madhya Pradesh, the State Government has launched a comprehensive Talent Search Campaign in the field of sports.
- Madhya Pradesh becomes the second state after Karnataka to implement the National Education Policy 2020.

Maharashtra

- Maharashtra government announced Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence in Information Technology (IT).
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Army Sports Institute's stadium in Pune named after Olympic

gold medal winner Neeraj Chopra.

Manipur

- Chandel district in Manipur has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by government think tank Niti Aayog FOR for the month of June.

Meghalaya

- Meghalaya Health Minister Prestone Tynsong after a meeting told reporters that all expenses for treatment of COVID 19 patients will be covered under the scheme and it will be known as 'Out of Pocket Treatment'.

Odisha

- Odisha capital Bhubaneswar has become the first city in India to achieve hundred percent vaccination of its people against covid-19.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced to provide Smart Health Cards to 3.5 crore people in the state under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana on the occasion of 75th Independence Day. Each family can avail treatment cost up to Rs 5 lakh per annum. Women members can avail this benefit up to Rs 10 lakh every year.

Punjab

- The government of Punjab has selected SBI General Insurance to service Ayushman Bharat Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana (AB-SSBY).
- Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh gave the go-ahead to an innovative new scheme 'Mera Kaam Mera Maan' (MKMM), to facilitate the unemployed youth, enhancing their skills and employability in their chosen field.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the renovated complex of Jallianwala Bagh memorial.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan has introduced a scheme to provide interest-free loan up to ₹50,000 to street vendors, people in the age group of 18-40 years working in the service sector and unemployed of urban areas hit by Covid-19-induced financial crisis.

Tamilnadu

- A high-tech, low sound carbine named 'TriCa' with a range more effective than a typical sub-machine gun and small enough to be packed in the jacket of security personnel was unveiled at the Ordnance Factory in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the DMK government's flagship scheme, 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam', which is aimed at taking healthcare to the doorsteps of the people.
- Aadi Pooram is celebrated in Tamil Nadu albeit in a subdued manner due to the Pandemic Restrictions.

Tripura

- In Tripura, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated a project called 'My Pad, My Right' initiated by NABARD and NABFOUNDATION at Killa village in Gomati district on the second and concluding day of her visit to the state.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman promised that a Rs 1300-crore project for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure Development for Tripura's Tribal areas would be cleared within the next 10 days.

Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand government launched an Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) Mobile App — 'Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert' — developed by IIT-Roorkee.
- The highest altitude herbal park of India, situated at a height of 11,000 feet, was inaugurated at Mana village close to the Indo-China border in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district.

Uttar Pradesh

- The Centre has released two thousand 400 crore rupees to Uttar Pradesh to accelerate the implementation of JalJeevan Mission in the State.
- Uttar Pradesh government has renamed the 'Kakori Kand' to 'Kakori Train action'.
- Uttar Pradesh government celebrated the anniversary of the 'Kakori Train action' under the program 'Chauri Chaura Mahotsav' which is going to complete 100 years in 2022.

- Uttar Pradesh government has decided to set up a training centre for Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) commandos in Saharanpur's Deoband, known for its Islamic seminary Darul Uloom Deoband.
- On the third day of his visit to Uttar Pradesh, President Ram Nath Kovind, he laid the foundation stone of the state's first AYUSH University in Gorakhpur.

Finance and Banking News:

- GyanDhan, India's first education financing platform has received an NBFC license from the Reserve Bank of India and it aims to disburse Rs 650 crore worth of education loans in FY22.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched e-RUPI, an electronic voucher-based digital payment system.
- Reserve Bank of India's new directions on raising interchange fee and making available the facility of bulk clearing round the clock have become effective from August 1 onwards. RBI in June raised the interchange fee for financial transactions from Rs 15 to Rs 17, while for non-financial transactions the increase was done from Rs 5 to Rs 6.
- Indian Bank entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE) – an initiative of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay – for extending exclusive credit facility to Start-ups and MSMEs.
- To safeguard the interest of its customers, Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a new and enhanced security feature – 'SIM Binding' in YONO and YONO Lite app.
- IndusInd Bank has been empanelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as an 'Agency Bank' to facilitate transactions related to government businesses.
- State Bank of India, SBI, reported a 55 per cent jump in its first quarter net profit of 6,504 crore rupees.
- SBI General Insurance announced a partnership with Manipal Business Solutions, the promoter of SahiPay to increase non-life insurance penetration in the rural market.
- SBI Payments, a joint venture between State Bank of India and Hitachi Payment Services, said it has partnered with Hitachi Payment Services to develop the capability to acquire e-RUPI transactions on the Yono SBI Merchant app.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das announced the August bi-monthly monetary policy statement.
 - RBI has kept the repo rate unchanged at 4% for the seventh straight meeting.
 - The reverse repo rate stands at 3.35%.
 - Other major rates like Bank Rate, MSF, CRR, SLR have also been kept unchanged.
 - Projection of real GDP growth is retained at 9.5 per cent in 2021-22.
- Bank of Baroda (BoB) signed an MoU (memorandum of understanding) with AP State Civil Supplies Corporation and BC/SC/ST and Minorities corporations to finance 9,260 mini trucks to the beneficiaries selected by the respective welfare corporations.
- To provide easy access to investors to participate in public and rights issues by using various payment avenues, markets regulator SEBI allowed payments banks to carry out the activities of investment bankers.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has joined hands with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to offer Unified Payments Interface (UPI) AUTOPAY facility to its customers.
- Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB) has launched a 'Suryoday Health and Wellness Savings Account' to help customers grow their wealth and also take care of their family's health amid the covid-19 pandemic.
- Indian Bank entered into an MoU with NSRCEL, the incubation arm of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB) for extending exclusive credit to startups.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has empanelled Mangaluru-headquartered private lender Karnataka Bank to act as an "agency bank" to facilitate transactions related to government businesses.
- Central Bank of India (CBoI) has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with Dhanvarsha Finvest Ltd (DFL) to offer loans against gold ornaments under priority sector to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) borrowers at competitive rates.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), in partnership with Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK (FCDO UK) has launched 'Swavalamban Challenge Fund' (SCF)..
- Indian Navy has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) FIRST Bank to initiate 'Honour FIRST', a premium banking solution for serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy.
- Reserve Bank of India notified the enhancement of collateral free loans to self-help groups (SHGs) from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY- NRLM).

- From October 1, banks will be handed out a flat Rs 10,000 penalty per ATM if their machines run out of cash beyond the stipulated time limit.
- Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd. (ESFB) has introduced an unique programme 'Equitech' (Equitas Fintech Accelerator Programme) to help budding fintech entrepreneurs to be mentored by industry experts and venture capitalists.
- RBL Bank has been accredited by the RBI to be an agency bank to carry on banking transactions of the central and state governments.
- CoinDCX has become the first Indian cryptocurrency exchange to enter the unicorn club with a \$90- million (Rs 668-crore) series-C funding round.
- Agritech start-up Arya has tied up with SBM Bank India for commodity financing. SBM Bank India is part of Mauritius-based SBM group.
- In order to give boost to flow of credit in UT of J&K, Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) on Financing of 1000 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) was signed and exchanged between NABARD, J&K and State Bank of India (SBI) and Jammu & Kashmir Gramin Bank (JKGB).
- Ten major lenders, including State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Canara Bank and Standard Chartered Bank, have for the first time joined hands to set up an online platform for trading of corporate loans in the secondary market.
- Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of Raigad based Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited in Maharashtra.
- AU Small Finance Bank has unveiled a mega Brand Campaign, aptly titled 'BADLAAV Humse Hai'.
- RuPay has launched strategic campaign to promote contactless payments.
- KreditBee, one of India's leading digital lending platforms, entered into the card segment with the launch of 'KreditBee Card'.
- Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loan and savings deposit growth during the first quarter of the current financial year.
- SBI Life Insurance has launched a new-age protection solution 'SBI Life eShield Next', an individual, non-linked, non-participating, life insurance pure risk premium product.
- HDFC has announced the introduction of 'Green & Sustainable Deposits' to safeguard the environment from climate change.
- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), in association with the Karnataka government, has launched 'Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System' (FRUITS) portal.
- Reserve Bank of India has created a composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country.
- ICICI Bank, HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank have cut the first swaption deals, giving new risk management tools to borrowers in rapidly changing interest rate scenarios.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has deployed a secure, Do It Yourself Digital Repayment Platform for missed loan repayments, in a tie-up with Credits Solutions.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed banks to maintain a branch-wise list of vacant lockers as well as a wait-list for the purpose of allotment of lockers and ensure transparency in allotment of lockers. Revised instructions will come into effect from January 1, 2022.
- World Bank launched a new Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund under its broader Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella programme.
- President Ram Nath Kovind approved placing the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NABFID) under the purview of the Department of Financial Services (DFS) in the Finance Ministry for administration purposes.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Has come up with a draft rule amending the existing regulation relating to foreign investment to discourage Round-tripping.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is putting in place a Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM), a web-based end-to-end workflow automation system, to strengthen compliance by supervised entities (SEs).
- State Bank of India (SBI) recently inaugurated an ATM on a Houseboat at Dal Lake, Srinagar. Known as the floating ATM.
- Capital Float has partnered with Razorpay to extend its buy now pay later (BNPL) solution—Walnut 369—to all Razorpay-enabled online merchants.
- NPCI's global arm NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has partnered with UAE-based Mashreq Bank to provide its mobile-based real-time payment system UPI in the gulf nation.
- Paytm and India's largest private sector bank, HDFC Bank, announced a strategic partnership to build comprehensive solutions across payment gateway, point of sale machines and credit products including Paytm Postpaid which is Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) solution, Eazy EMI and Flexi Pay.

- ICICI Bank Germany, a part of ICICI Bank, announced the launch of a digital and instant Blocked Account for students aspiring to study in Germany.
- Citibank becomes first US bank to set up unit in IFSC at GIFT City.
- Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the FDI proposal for an investment of upto 15 thousand crore rupees by Anchorage Infrastructure Investment Holding Limited.
- Bajaj Finserv will be the latest entrant to the Rs 35-trillion mutual fund (MF) industry after the company received in-principle approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- BharatPe has entered peer-to-peer (P2P) lending with its product '12% club', which will allow consumers to not only earn 12 per cent interest on the funds they invest but also borrow at an interest rate of 12 per cent.
- Bank Employees Family Pension will be increased to 30% of last pay drawn.
- Reserve Bank of India has extended the scope of permitted devices for undertaking tokenised card transactions to include consumer devices such as laptops, desktops, wearables (wrist watches, bands, etc.), and Internet of Things (IoT) devices.
- India's first credit-led neobank, Freo, has tied up with Equitas Small Finance Bank to launch zero-balance savings account that will offer a 7% interest rate on a minimum balance of ₹1 lakh.
- South Indian Bank has been empanelled as an 'Agency Bank' by Reserve Bank of India to undertake general banking businesses of Central and State government on behalf of the RBI.
- Karnataka Bank launched KBL FASTag for seamless movement of vehicles at toll plazas by facilitating automatic deduction of the toll amount.
- Decimal Technologies, and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (USFB) Limited, a mass market bank, has entered into a partnership through which Ujjivan SFB and its channel partners will use Decimal's digital lending platform – Saarathi.
- Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), the global management institution, has partnered with Bank of America to launch a Centre for Digital Transformation (CDT).
- Jana Small Finance Bank (Jana SFB) will provide its digital infrastructure and payments services to HCBL Co-operative Bank and Mysore Merchants Co-operative Bank under the bank sponsorship programme.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched the mobile application of its digital paperless solution, "ANANDA" for LIC agents. ANANDA stands for Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application.
- Reserve Bank of India has announced issue price for Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22 – Series VI. RBI has a fixed price of 4,732 Rupee per gram for bonds which will be available for subscription from August 30, 2021 and will remain open till 3rd September 2021.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased incentives for banks for the distribution of coins to the general public to Rs 65 per bag with effect from September 1. Currently, the incentive is Rs 25 per bag.
- Reserve Bank of India has made enhancements to the Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme, whereby the ceiling per transaction has been increased four-fold to ₹2 lakh and the cap of 12 remittances in a year per remitter has been removed.
- Reserve Bank of India extended the scheme for encouraging deployment of Point of Sale (PoS) infrastructure to street vendors covered under the PM SVANidhi programme in tier 1 and 2 centres.
- Max Life Insurance Company Ltd has enabled a safe and secure E-mandate process on premium payments for its customers in partnership with BillDesk, a payment gateway solutions provider.
- PhonePe has received an insurance broking licence from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

Business News:

- YouTube has signed a definitive agreement to buy video shopping app simsim as it looks to help discover and buy products from Indian retailers.
- Magma Fincorp has been renamed as Poonawalla Fincorp with effect from July 22.
- Confederation of Indian Industry, CII, has entered into an agreement with Serum Institute of India (SII) to speed up the vaccination program in partnership with industry including health care providers.
- The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 1.581 billion to stand at USD 611.149 billion for the week ended July 23.
- Goods and Services Tax collection for the month of July rose to Rs 1,16,393 crore.
- NSE has joined hands with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for research collaboration.
- NSE IFSC Ltd has appointed BSO as its first official international approved connectivity partner.
- HCL Technologies Ltd overtook Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp to become the fourth-most valuable India-centric information technology (IT) services company.
- IIFL Finance has partnered with Bangalore and Gurgaon-based FinBox to offer innovative digital credit products

to its merchants.

- HCL Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of HCL Technologies, launched an online portal, 'My e-Haat', to empower artisans and strengthen the value chain of the handicraft sector in the country.
- PayNearby has partnered with Visa and RBL Bank to launch SoftPoS and mPoS for its over 1.5 million retail network.
- General Insurance Corporation (GIC Re) has said that it has had to shut down its Dubai office as its licence was not renewed by the Dubai authority. Following this, the corporation has decided to carry out its operations from the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in India.
- Tata Consultancy Services crossed the Rs 13-lakh-crore mark in market value, becoming only the second in the country to do so — after Reliance Industries.
- Universal Service Obligation Fund USOF has signed an Agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited BSNL for hiring of 10 Gbps International Bandwidth for Internet Connectivity to Agartala from Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited BSCCL Bangladesh through Cox Bazar and Kuakata.
- Union Heavy Industries Minister Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey inaugurated the country's very first Solar Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station at the Karnal Lake Resort.
- Intel India in collaboration with Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE)-IIT Bombay, launched Plugin Alliance, a first-of-its-kind industry-technology grouping with a focus on accelerating Industry 4.0 transformation in India.
- Ohmium International has launched India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer gigafactory at Bengaluru through its India subsidiary.
- Microsoft has teamed up with India's national investment promotion and facilitation agency Invest India to support tech startups in the country.
- Infosys became the fourth Indian company to touch a market valuation of \$100 billion.
- Flipkart Wholesale, the digital B2B marketplace of Flipkart Group, has launched credit programs to help kiranas manage their working capital requirements and grow their business. Flipkart Wholesale's credit offerings, including 'Easy Credit' in partnership with IDFC FIRST Bank can help kiranas avail credit in two minutes at zero cost, through digital onboarding.
- NITI Aayog and US-based multinational firm Cisco launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).
- India's first sectoral index in the Agri commodities basket i.e. GUAREX was launched by the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).
- Google has launched a programme 'Be Internet Awesome' in partnership with comic book publisher Amar Chitra Katha to inculcate safe internet practices in children.
- FinX Labs opened its start-up accelerator and co-working space in the International Financial Services Centre at GIFT City.

Economy News:

- Central Government's fiscal deficit stood at Rs 2.74 lakh crore or 18.2 per cent of the full year's Budget estimate at the end of June, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- India's services exports increased 24.1 per cent month-on-month to USD 19.72 billion in June 2021.
- India Ratings and Research (Ind Ra) revised upwards its 2021-22 GDP growth forecast to 9.4%.
- The total loans and advances extended by NABARD during 2020-21 registered a growth of 25.2 per cent year-on-year to reach Rs 6 lakh crore.
- India has attracted total FDI inflow of 22.53 billion dollars during April to June.
- The capacity of data centre industry is expected to double by 2023 to over 1,000 MW to meet the rising demand amid sharp growth in digitalisation, according to property consultant JLL. The industry's capacity is expected to double from 499 MW in January-June 2021 to 1,008 MW by 2023.
- The country's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow at around 18.5 per cent with an upward bias in the first quarter of the current financial year, according to SBI research report Ecwrap.

Science & Technology:

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras has launched the country's first Consortium for Virtual Reality called 'Consortium for VR/AR/MR Engineering Mission in India' (CAVE).
- Eutelsat Quantum, the world's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite lifted off from French Guiana on board an Ariane 5 rocket, with the hope of a new era of more flexible communications.
- WhatsApp has rolled out a new feature called 'View Once' this week. A photo or a video immediately will be deleted from the chat once opened by the recipient through WhatsApp's 'View once' feature.

- Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) 'Vikrant' designed by Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design(DND) is being built at Cochin Shipyard Limited(CSL), a Public Sector Shipyard under Ministry of Shipping (MoS).
- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr Virendra Kumar launched PM-DAKSH Portal and PM- DAKSH Mobile App developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with NeGD, to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched 'Digital Prayaas', an App based end to end digital lending platform, whereby loan sanction will be accorded to aspiring entrepreneurs from the bottom of the pyramid by the end of the day.
- The ISRO launcher GSLV F10 launched Earth Observation Satellite EOS-03 from the second launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR in Sriharikota.
- Indian Air Force (IAF) has built one of the world's highest mobile air traffic control (ATC) towers at the Advanced Landing Ground in Ladakh's Nyoma area.
- Pakistan successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi which can strike targets up to 290 kilometres.
- IIT, Bombay has developed a novel method using infra-red technology to detect which patients are more at risk of becoming severely ill from COVID-19.
- Union Minister Dr.Jitendra Singh released "IndiGau", India's first Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) based chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.
- Facebook India announced a new programme called the "Small Business Loans Initiative", in partnership with online lending platform Indifi, to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) that advertise on Facebook to get quick access to credit through independent lending partners.
- NTPC Limited has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project of 25 MegaWatt on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), has launched Urja, a virtual assistant with AI/NLP (Artificial Intelligence/Natural Language Processing) capabilities and trained on more than 600 use cases.
- Government has launched a new geospatial planning portal, 'Yuktdhara', that will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data. The portal was launched by Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) has developed India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair vehicle, NeoBolt, that can be used even on uneven terrains.
- The government launched e-Shram portal – National Database on Unorganized Workers (NDUW).
- Pakistan successfully test launched an indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system, Fatah-1.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the state of the art Indian Coast Guard Ship Vighraha in Chennai Harbour.
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India launched the country's first 'Quantum Computer Simulator (QSim) Toolkit'. It is the country's first collaborative initiative in this field, brought together by IISc Bangalore, IIT Roorkee and C-DAC.
- To celebrate the second anniversary of Fit India Movement and as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched the Fit India Mobile Application.

Environment:

- The world's largest star sapphire cluster has been found by accident in a backyard in Sri Lanka.

Defence News:

- A hotline was established between Indian Army at Kongra La in North Sikkim and People's Liberation Army of China at Khamba Dzong in Tibetan Autonomous Region.
- Indian Navy undertook bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' with UAE Navy off the coast of Abu Dhabi.
- India and Saudi Arabia are all set to conduct their first-ever naval exercise, 'Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021'.
- 'Quad countries' India, US, Australia and Japan will come together with two aircraft battle groups and a plethora of air power to carry out the complex second phase of the Malabar exercise in the Northern Arabian Sea.
- Indian Navy participated in the U.S. Navy-led Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) military exercise in Singapore.
- INS Tabar is participating in the bilateral Exercise Konkan 2021 between the Indian Navy and Britain's Royal Navy in the UK to enhance military cooperation between the two sides.
- As part of its Persian Gulf deployment, INS Kochi is at Manama in Bahrain. The ship will participate in the four-

day Maritime Partnership Exercise.

- India and Vietnam navies have carried out bilateral maritime exercise in the South China Sea. Accordingly, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ranvijay and INS Kora undertook bilateral maritime exercise with the Vietnam People's Navy frigate VPNS Ly Thai To (HQ-012).
- The second edition of the joint naval exercise, Zair-Al-Bahr, between the Indian Navy and Qatar Emiri Naval Force (QENF) was conducted in the Persian Gulf.
- India carried out a naval exercise with the Philippines in the South China Sea. While the Indian Navy deployed its guided-missile destroyer INS Ranvijay and guided missile corvette INS Kora in the exercise, the Philippine Navy was represented by its frigate BRP Antonio Luna.
- The fifth edition of Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise, KAZIND-21 will be conducted at Aisha Bibi in Kazakhstan, from August 30 to September 11.
- Multiple cities in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and the National Capital Region are hosting synchronised commando drills as part of a national mock exercise being carried out by the counter-terrorist force National Security Guard (NSG) to check its response time and reaction to hostage and hijack-like situations.
- The militaries of China, Pakistan, Mongolia and Thailand will take part in a multinational peacekeeping exercise "Shared Destiny-2021" to be organised by the People's Liberation Army in the country's central Henan province next month.
- Navies of India and Germany carried out a joint exercise, which included helicopter landings and search and seizure operations, in Gulf of Aden near Yemen.

Sports News:

Tournament	Winner	Other news
Bharat Kesari Wrestling Dangal 2021	Labhanshu Sharma	Organised in Tamilnadu
ITTF Czech International Open Men's Singles Title	Sathiyam Gnanasekaran	Beat Yevhen Ryshchepa of Ukraine
Barcelona Open chess tournament	SP Sethuraman	
II Terras de Tras-os-Montes Chess Open	Arjun Erigaisi	
Mixed Doubles final at the WTT (World Table Tennis) Contender Budapest 2021	Manika Batra and Sathiyam Gnanasekaran	Beat Hungarian pair of Nandor Ecseki and Dora Madarasz
Hungarian Grand Prix 2021	Esteban Ocon	
Belgium Grand Prix	Max Verstappen	
2021 CONCACAF Gold Cup	USA	Beat Mexico
FIDE World Cup 2021	Jan-Krzysztof Duda of Poland	Beat GM Sergey Karjakin
India's 69th Grandmaster	Harshit Raja	
19th Spilimbergo Open Chess Tournament	Raunak Sadhwani	

Sports:

- Sports Minister Anurag Thakur launched the theme song for Tokyo Paralympics in New Delhi. The song is titled "Kar De Kamaal Tu". The composer and singer of the song is Sanjeev Singh.
- 130th Edition of Durand Cup Football Tournament is scheduled to be held at Kolkata, West Bengal from 5th of September to 3rd of October this year.
- Unmukt Chand, India's 2012 U-19 World Cup-winning captain, announced his decision to retire from all forms of cricket.
- In Archery, India won gold medals in the compound cadet women's and men's and mixed team events in the ongoing World Youth Championships in Wroclaw.
- India finished Archery Youth World Championships with a record haul of 15 medals including eight gold at Wroclaw in Poland.
- 2021 edition of the World Athletics U20 Championships scheduled to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Neeraj Chopra moved up 14 places to become World No. 2 as per the latest World Athletics Men's Javelin Rankings.
- Javelin thrower Tek Chand will be India's flag-bearer during the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.

- Princepal Singh became the first Indian to be part of an NBA title winning team when his side SacramentoKings clinched the 2021 NBA Summer League crown.
- Stuart Binny, who owns the record of the best bowling figures in ODI format, announced his retirement from first class and international cricket.
- Sri Lanka left-arm seam bowling all-rounder Isuru Udana announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect.
- Former Nepal cricket team captain Paras Khadka announced retirement from international cricket.
- Pakistan's wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan has surpassed Paul Stirling's record to claim the record for scoring the most run in T20 internationals in a single calendar year.

All About Tokyo Olympics 2020

- Olympics 2021 saw the introduction of new competitions including 3×3 basketball, freestyle BMX, and Madison cycling, as well as further mixed events. These Games saw karate, sport climbing, surfing, and skateboarding make their Olympic debuts, as well as the return of baseball and softball for the first time since 2008.
- The mascot of Tokyo Olympics is named as Miraitowa.
- AR Rahman and young singer Ananya Birla collaborated to present the official song of the Indian contingent for the Tokyo Olympics, titled Cheer4India: Hindustani Way.
- USA topped the leaderboard with a total of 113 medals – 39 gold, 41 silver and 33 bronze. USA is followed by China(88) and Japan(58) in second and third respectively.
- Mary Kom and men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh were India's flag bearers in the opening ceremony.
- Bajrang Punia was India's flag bearer for the closing ceremony.

India Olympics winner list

1. Neeraj Chopra(Javelin throw) – Gold
2. Ravi Kumar Dahiya(Wrestling – 57 KG) – Silver
3. Mirabai Chanu(Weight Lifting – 49 Kg Women)-Silver
4. PV Sindhu(Women's Singles Badminton) -Bronze
5. Lovlina Borgohain(Women's Welterweight Boxing) – Bronze
6. Hockey Indian Hockey Team-Bronze
7. Bajrang Punia(Wrestling – 65 Kg) – Bronze

The men's hockey team won bronze, which is the first Olympic medal for India in the sport in 41 years.

- James Anderson overtook Anil Kumble to become 3rd highest wicket-taker in Test Cricket.
- Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and West Indies skipper Stafanie Taylor were named the ICC Player of the Month for July in men's and women's categories respectively.

Committee:

<i>Head of Committee</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
Sunil Sethi	for doubling the production and quadrupling the exports of handlooms in a span of three years

Rankings:

<i>Index</i>	<i>India's Rank</i>	<i>Other Information</i>
Global Coronavirus Innovation Rankings for Countries by StartupBlink	32 nd	Top- USA
Global Youth Development Index by Commonwealth Secretariat in London	122 nd	Top- Singapore
Global Cryptocurrency Adoption Index	2 nd	Top- Vietnam
Cushman and Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index	2 nd (Most desired manufacturing hub)	Top- China

2021 Global DeFi(Decentralized Finance) Adoption Index	6 th	Top- USA
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- Economist Intelligence Unit has published its 2021 Safe Cities Index. Copenhagen tops the rankings this year with a score of 82.4 out of 100. New Delhi is placed at 48th position with a score of 56.1, while Mumbai is at 50th place with a score of 54.4. Yangon is at the bottom of the index.
- East Sikkim has topped in terms of meeting sustainable development goals in the Niti Aayog's North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index Report 2021-22 and Nagaland's Kiphire featured at the bottom, as per the specified parameters.

Loans from Banks/Countries:

From	To	Amount	Purpose
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Jharkhand	Rs 831 crore (USD 112 million)	
ADB	Maharashtra	USD 300 million loan	for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project that is upgrading rural roads and connecting remote areas with markets
Asian Development Bank	India	USD 500 million	to expand the metro rail network in Bengaluru with the construction of two new metro lines totaling 56 kilometers
Asian Development Bank	India	500 million dollar	to expand the metro rail network at Bengaluru in Karnataka
International Monetary Fund		\$650 billion in Special Drawing Rights	to help countries cope with the COVID-19 pandemic
NABARD	Assam	13 thousand 200 crore rupees	to give a boost to execute development projects in Assam
NABARD	Goa	₹ 217.72 crore	for various Social infrastructure Projects in the State
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	Tamil Nadu	Rs 24.90 lakh	for a project on Integrated Mangrove Fishery Farming System (IMFFS) in Cuddalore district
Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)	Mauritius	USD 100 million	
World Bank	India	USD 250 million (about Rs 1,855 crore)	to make the existing dam infrastructures safe in the country
World Bank's IFC	IndoSpace's logistics fund	\$75 million over Rs 557 crore	to develop logistics and industrial parks with an objective to enhance warehousing and supply chain infrastructure in India
Punjab National Bank (PNB)	Uttar Pradesh	Rs 5100 crores	for Ganga expressway project

- HDFC Ltd has got a loan of \$250 million from International Finance Corporation (IFC), the investment arm of the World Bank Group, to be used by India's largest housing finance company for green housing.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a Rs 77.45 crore package for the revival of state-run North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC).
- US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) jointly sponsored a \$50 million loan portfolio to guarantee to Kotak Mahindra Bank to support increased financial access to women borrowers, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India.

Deadlines/ Important Dates/Years:

- Reserve Bank of India allowed time to banks till October 31 to implement changes on the current account front, following reports of small businesses being hit with account freezes in the last few days.
- India's nuclear power generation capacity is expected to touch 22,480 MW by 2031.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed time to banks till October 31 to implement changes in terms of managing current accounts.
- The government has set a target of achieving 175 GigaWatt of Renewable Energy capacity excluding large hydro by December 2022.
- The Centre has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, prohibiting the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of identified single-use plastic (SUP) items, including candy sticks, plates, cups, and cutlery, from July 1, 2022.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the government will fortify the rice distributed to the poor via different schemes such as Midday Meal by 2024 in a bid to address the problem of malnutrition. "Malnutrition and lack of micro-nutrients are affecting the growth of poor children."
- India's Largest Hockey Stadium in Odisha at Rourkela is to Be Completed by July 2022.
- India is working in mission mode to achieve the target of 400 billion dollar merchandise exports in the current financial year.
- Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said that India is expected to export USD 46 billion to ASEAN in the financial year 2022.

Rankings (Persons, Cities, Organisations, and Others):

- Mumbai and Bengaluru are out of the global top-100 list and are currently ranking at 106 and 110, respectively in the latest edition of the QS Best Student Cities Ranking.
- Seven Indian companies have found a place in 2021 Fortune's Global 500 list. Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd is the highest-ranked Indian company on the list in terms of revenue, with revenues of nearly \$63 billion. It is placed at 155th spot globally. Globally, Walmart has topped the list.

Indian Companies in the list:

- Reliance Industries (155)
- State Bank of India (205)
- Indian Oil (212)
- Oil & Natural Gas (243)
- Rajesh Exports (348)
- Tata Motors (357)
- Bharat Petroleum (394)
- Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad was adjudged the second most polluted city out of the 50 'most polluted cities' in the world in 2020 by a report prepared by British company HouseFresh. Ghaziabad reported an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 2.5 particulate matter (PM) in 106.6 µg/m³. China's Hotan province is the most polluted city in the world.
- As many as 12 Indian companies found a place among the Hurun Global 500 for 2021 as Wipro Ltd, Asian Paints Ltd and HCL Technologies Ltd made it to the list of 500 most valuable firms in the world, while ITC Ltd dropped out. Apple, retained its position as the world's most valuable company with a market capitalization of \$2.4 trillion, up by 15%. The world's top six valuable companies remained unchanged as Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet, Facebook and Tencent.
- None of the Indian universities could make it to the top 100 spots in the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) released by Shanghai Ranking recently. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore is the only Indian institute to have scored a rank in the top 500. Harvard University tops the ranking list for the 19th year this time.

Books:

Book	Author
The Khan of Khel Khudaai	Harshaa Bharatula
In An Ideal World	Kunal Basu
Leopard Diaries: The Rosette in India	Sanjay Gubbi
My Own Mazagon	Ramesh Babu
A Different Route to Success	Ramesh Narayan
Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama	Manan Bhatt
A Begum and A Rani	Rudrangshu Mukherjee
The Biography of a Failed Venture: Decoding success secrets from the Black box of a Dead Start-up	Prashant Desai
A Death In Shonagachhi	Rijula Das
The Year That Wasn't – The Diary of a 14-Year-Old	Brisha Jain
The Earthspinner	Anuradha Roy
How the Earth Got Its Beauty	Sudha Murty
Zohra! A Biography In Four Acts	Ritu Menon
Art Cinema And India's Forgotten Futures: Film And History in the PostColony	Rochona Majumdar
Ramrao: The Story of India's Farm Crisis	Jaideep Hardikar
Lahore: Book 1 of the Partition Trilogy	Manreet Sodhi Someshwar
The Dream of Revolution: A Biography of Jayaprakash Narayan	Sujata Prasad
Operation Trojan Horse: A Novel Inspired by True Events	Abhishek Sharan & D.P.Sinha
'Operation Khukri'	Major General Punia and his daughter Damini Punia
Mission Domination: An Unfinished Quest	Boria Majumdar and Kushan Sarkar.
Battlefield	Vishram Bedekar
Address Book: A Publishing Memoir in the time of COVID	Ritu Menon
Let's Go Time Travelling Again	Subhadra Sen Gupta
The Kapil Sharma Story	Ajitabha Bose
Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government	K J Alphons
An Invitation to Die: A Colonel Acharya Mystery	Tanushree Podder

- Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, released the book titled 'Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government'.

Obituaries

Name	Profession	Other Info
Babulal Jain	Senior BJP leader and former Madhya Pradesh Minister	
Kalyan Singh	Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh	
Arun Dey	Veteran Odisha Politician	
Justice P Keshava Rao	Telangana State High Court Judge	
Rashid Irani	Eminent film critic	
Anupam Shyam	Actor	
Pradeep Guha	Film producer and well-known media personality	
Saranya Sasi	Malayalam actress	
Chithra	Malayalam Actress	
Anandha Kannan	Popular television host, VJ and actor	
Padma Sachdev	Dogri writer	the first modern woman poet of Dogri language

Buddhadeb Guha	Eminent Bengali writer	
P.S. Banarji	Cartoonist, sculptor and folk singer	
Gouri Ghosh	Noted elocutionist of West Bengal	
Kasargod Patnashetti Gopal Rao	A 1971 war hero and recipient of the Mahavir Chakra	
Balaji Tambe	An Ayurveda practitioner and proponent of Yoga	
B.V. Nimbkar	Noted agricultural scientist and recipient of Padma Shri award	
Man Kaur	Centenarian Sprinter	referred to as 'Miracle from Chandigarh'
Shankar Subramaniam, alias Babu, Narayan	Olympian footballer	
Syed Shahid Hakim	Olympic footballer and former National coach	
Chinmoy Chatterjee	Former India defender Football	
O Chandrasekharan	Former Indian Footballer	
Gopal Bhengra	Former international hockey player	
O.M Nambiar	Renowned athletics coach	
Vasudev Paranjape	Renowned coach	
Gerd Mueller	Germany football player	
Ted Dexter	Former England cricket captain	
Maki Kaji	Godfather of Sudoku	
Sean Lock	British Comedian	
Ed Asner	Seven-time Emmy-winning actor	

Important Days

Date	Day	Extra Info
July 28	200th anniversary of independence day of Peru	
August 1	Muslim Women Rights Day	
August 1	World Lung Cancer Day	
August 1-7	World Breastfeeding Week	Theme- Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility
August 4	National Bones and Joint Day	Theme- Prevention of deformity in degenerative disease
August 6	Hiroshima Day	
August 7	National Handloom Day	
August 7	Javelin Throw Day	to honour Neeraj Chopra's first historic Olympic gold
August 8	79th anniversary of Quit India Movement	
August 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	Theme- Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract
August 10	World Lion Day	
August 10	World Biofuel Day	Theme- The promotion of biofuels for a better environment
August 12	World Elephant Day	
August 12	International Youth Day	Theme- Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health
August 13	International Left Handers Day	
August 13	World Organ Donation Day	
August 14	World Prediabetes Day	
August 14	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day	
August 15	75th Independence Day of India	

August 16	De Jure Transfer day of Puducherry	
August 19	World Humanitarian Day	Theme- #TheHumanRace
August 19	World Photography Day	
August 19 to August 25	Sanskrit Week	
August 20	'Sadbhavana Diwas' or Harmony Day	marks the 77th birth anniversary of India's Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
August 20	World Mosquito Day	
August 20	Akshay Urja Diwas	the birth anniversary of the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
August 21	World Senior Citizen's Day	
August 21	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	
August 21	World Entrepreneurs' Day	
August 23-27	26th World Water Week 2021	Theme- Building Resilience Faster
August 26	International Dog Day	
August 26	Women's Equality Day in USA	
August 29	International Day against Nuclear Tests	
August 29	National Sports Day	the birth anniversary of Indian hockey legend, Major Dhyan Chand
August 30	National Small Industry Day	