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(Compilation of Current Events)



TAMIL NADU



STATES



NATIONAL



INDIA & THE WORLD



INTERNATIONAL



SCHEMES



DEFENCE



SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY



EVS



ECONOMY



COURT VERDICTS



CONFERENCES &
SUMMITS



AWARDS



PERSONALITIES



BOOKS & AUTHORS



SPORTS



RANKS & REPORTS



DAYS



OBITUARY



NEWS OF THE MONTH



KNOWLEDGE



APPOINTMENTS



COMMITTEES



APPS / PORTALS



MISCELLANEOUS

**COMPILATION OF JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER
CURRENT AFFAIRS 2021**

**CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY (1 - 31), 2021 FOR CRC
TEST**

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TAMIL NADU

APPOINTMENT

□ **V.C. for Periyar University**

R Jagannathan – is appointed as the New vice-chancellor of Periyar University by Governor Banwarilal Purohit on June 30

□ **Dindigul I Leoni - Text Book Society head.**

Dindigul I Leoni, a popular talk show host - has been appointed head of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation.

□ **Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Art and Literature society for the Awards.**

Chief minister M K Stalin - presented cash awards and certificates to 21 writers for their best literary works in the fields of art, culture, literature and research activities

The literary luminaries were identified by the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Art and Literature Society for the awards

The state government extends financial support to the Adi-Dravidar writers, for which a corpus fund of Rs. 50 lakh has been created.

➤ **Car major Hyundai**

✓ South Korean car major Hyundai – has rolled out its 10 millionth car in India from its factory in Sriperumbudur off Chennai

➤ **King Institute**

✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated the post-Covid care clinic at Government Covid Hospital on **King Institute campus** in Guindy, Chennai.

➤ **Veatham**

✓ The forest department - is setting up an interpretation centre named '**Veatham**' (elephant) at the government timber depot on Kotagiri Road in to create awareness about elephants among children.

➤ **Covid - Vaccination for pregnant Women**

✓ Tamil Nadu - began the vaccination drive for pregnant women for the first time in the country at **Pennadam** in Cuddalore district

✓ **Pregnant women can opt for vaccination** at any stage of their pregnancy after registration on Co-WIN portal or by walk-in registration at the nearest centre.

➤ **Manali - has become the first zone of the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) to have an all-women team to manage solid waste.**

Archaeological excavation

- **Three stone inscriptions and two base sculptures belonging to the 10th Century - have been discovered in water bodies in and around Thesur village in Tiruvannamalai district.**
- **Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - has sanctioned Rs. 1.25 crore assistance to the Tamil Chair from Cologne University in Germany.**

EDUCATION

- **Tamil Nadu - has only, one out of five, government schools in the state with internet facility.**
 - ✓ Of the 37,579 government schools in the state, only 6,746 schools (17.9%) have internet facility
 - ✓ This was revealed in the **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)** report for 2019-20 .
 - ✓ More than 80% government schools, however, have computer facility and most of them are functional.
 - ✓ The internet facility has become one of the basic requirements for learning due to online mode of education during the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - ✓ Among the 12,382 private schools in the state, 90% have computers and 75% have internet facility.
- **The Navy - has announced that the area within the 3km radius from the perimeter of INS Rajali naval air station in Arakkonam is a 'no fly zone'**
 - ✓ According to DGCA, people have to register all drones with DiGi Sky platform and activate the '**No permission- No Take off**' above 200ft altitude.
- **The plan to set up India's first offshore desalination plant off the Chennai coast - is to commence soon with the recent launch of the Rs 4,000 crore Deep Ocean Mission**
- **An all-party meeting in Chennai - unanimously urged the Union government not to clear the Mokedatu dam project pushed by Karnataka**
 - ✓ According to the CM, the proposed dam, with a capacity of 67.16tmcft, would affect the interests of Tamil Nadu farmers.
- **Doorstep Medical- as 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam'**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu Government - to launch a doorstep medical care programme to offer home-based dialysis units to people with chronic renal failure.
 - ✓ The initiative is named as '**Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam**'
 - ✓ Initially, the state will launch a mass screening programme over the next 10 days to identify people with non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension in the state
 - ✓ Later, those with diabetes or hypertension will undergo preliminary screening and consultation at PHCs.
 - ✓ They will also carry **glucometers and BP apparatus** with them for routine screening.

- **Justice A K Rajan - had submitted a 165-page report to chief minister M K Stalin at the secretariat**

A	First generation students in government medical college (%)
B	Influence of family income below 2.5 lakh (%)
C	No. Students from Tamil Nadu
D	State board Students %
E	Number of govt school students who got admission into govt medical college. 7.5 % quota
F	Number of govt school students who got admission into Self financing medical college. 7.5 % quota
G	Demand for domicillary certificate for admission to govt medical colleges %
H	Demand for domicillary certificate for admission to Self financing medical colleges %

- **Tamil Nadu government - will launch 47 industrial projects bringing in investments to the tune of Rs. 28,664 crore into the state**
 - ✓ These projects are expected to provide employment to 82,400 people in the state
 - ✓ Out of the 47 projects, the state government will sign agreements for 35 new projects, with an investments worth over Rs.17,000 crore
 - ✓ Further, the foundation stone for 9 other projects would be laid by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.
- **Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced his government is working on a target to make Tamil Nadu a \$1 trillion (\$1 lakh crore) GDP economy by the year 2030.**
 - ✓ The CM launched the DMK government's first major Industrial Conclave, organized by the Guidance bureau, after it came to power in May 2021
 - ✓ The state government has also unveiled an upgraded website 2.0 for single window clearance that has inculcated 100 more services across 24 departments
 - ✓ It is further planning to add 210 services under the initiative by next March
 - ✓ During the event, 35 new MoUs were signed in the presence of the CM to bring in more than Rs.17,141 crore in new investments and generate employment to 55,000 people.
 - ✓ In addition, foundation stones were laid for 9 new projects involving an investment of Rs.4,250 crore and generating employment to over 21,600 people
 - ✓ Further, the CM has inaugurated commercial production in 5 industrial units established with a combined investment of Rs.7,117 crore and employing close to 6,800 people.
- **Rurban Mission**
 - ✓ The Union government - is planning to construct a heritage village and tourism at **Singaperumal Koil** as part of efforts to promote rural tourism.
 - ✓ Singaperumal Koil, located at 40km from Chennai, and six nearby villages - **Appur, Chettipuniyam, Guruvanmedu, Kolathur, Reddiplayam** and Venkatapuram - are already notified as a cluster for implementing `Rurban' mission
 - ✓ The mission aims to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas by providing economic, livelihood and physical infrastructure facilities in rural areas.
 - ✓ Under the mission, women of the villages are brought together and are being provided training for livelihood. The mission says that the rural-urban divide in Tamil Nadu is 3.10%, much less than the national average.

- **Tamil Nadu government - has reconstituted the state-level vigilance and monitoring committee for SC/STs with chief minister M K Stalin as chairman.**
 - ✓ Mr. Palanivel Thiagarajan (Finance),
 - ✓ N Kayalvizhi Selvaraj (adi dravidar welfare),
 - ✓ C V Ganesan (labour welfare)
 - ✓ M Mathiventhan (tourism)
 - ✓ It comprises of nine MPs, including VCK leaders Thol Thirumavalavan and D Ravikumar.

- **Tamil Nadu school education department - is planning to train all 3 lakh teachers in government schools with basic functional computer skills**
 - ✓ Each teacher will be trained for **five days on creating a word document, PDF, sending e-mails and on how to use online videos in classrooms.**
 - ✓ The training will be conducted in hi-tech labs in around 7,000 government high and higher secondary schools throughout the state.
 - ✓ The teachers will also be trained on entering data on EMIS (Educational Management Information System) The EMIS is a government data repository with enrollment and other details of students across government-run schools in the state.
 - ✓ The 'Resource Persons Training' will be launched by school education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi on July 26.

- **The Tamil Nadu government - announced that it will implement 10.5% special reservation for vanniars in admission to all courses, including professional courses, from the academic year 2021-22.**
 - ✓ After consultation with legal experts and the **Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC)**, chief minister M K Stalin issued an order to implement the 10.5% special reservation from February 26, 2021
 - ✓ The previous AIADMK government had passed the legislation to temporarily provide for 10.5% special reservation for vanniars within the 20% quota for most backward classes (MBCs).

- **Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated 25 CNG (compressed natural gas) stations in Chennai and Tiruvallur and one main station of Gujarat-based Torrent Gas through video conferencing.**
 - ✓ Torrent Gas plans to commission 50 CNG stations by September this year and 100 CNG stations by June next year and 500 by March 2023.
 - ✓ As per the plan, within the next year, at least 70,000 households in Chennai will be covered by PNG (piped natural gas) supply, which is a cheaper alternative to LPG cylinders.
 - ✓ At current prices, PNG is about 40 % cheaper than LPG.

The committee will include -

- ✓ Prof M Vijayabhaskar, part time member of State Development Policy Council,
- ✓ Bindu Anand, former member of RBI Committees on financial inclusion, SME finance and securitization,
- ✓ N Balasubramaniam, former CMD, SIDBI,
- ✓ Hemalatha Annamalai, co-founder and ex-CEO, Ampere Vehicles (evehicle),
- ✓ Israr Ahmed, regional chairman, FIEO,
- ✓ Anburajan, president, TANSTIA and

- ✓ R Anand, ex-partner, Ernst and Young and former member of RBI Committee on Asset Reconstruction Companies.
- **The state government - decided to bestow veteran Communist leader N Sankaraiah, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday, with the recently constituted 'Thagaisal Thamizhar' (Venerable Tamil) award.**
 - ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin will present the award to Sankaraiah at the Independence Day celebrations in Chennai on August 15.
 - ✓ The award carries a citation and a cheque for Rs.10 lakh.
 - ✓ Responding to the announcement and expressing his intent to accept the award, Sankaraiah thanked the CM for the recognition.
 - ✓ He however donated the Rs.10 lakh prize money to CM's Covid-19 Relief Fund
- **American-based solar technology company First Solar Inc - announced that it will invest \$684 million in a new, fully vertically integrated photovoltaic (PV) thin film solar module manufacturing facility in the state**
- **Srivilliputhur sanctuary has the highest leopard density in Western Ghats: report**
 - ✓ The Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu has the highest leopard density (per 100 sq km), not just in the State but in the entire Western Ghats landscape.
- **Phuket to be Chennai's sister city**
 - ✓ The city of Phuket in Thailand has proposed to establish a sister city agreement with Chennai.
 - ✓ The Royal Thai Consulate-General in Chennai has requested the Greater Chennai Corporation to discuss various aspects of the sister city partnership.
- **Denmark looks to set up centre for offshore wind in T.N.**
 - ✓ State of Tamil Nadu and Denmark have planned to create an energy island in Gulf of Mannar that lies between the west coast of Sri Lanka and south-eastern tip of India. This plan was made as Tamil Nadu is looking to expand its footprint in the green energy sector. To achieve this target, Denmark is likely to invest \$5-10 billion in the renewable energy sector in the state. It also includes investment for an energy island in the Gulf of Mannar. With this investment, island would be able to produce 4-10 GW of energy.
- ✓ **Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 150 million loan for a sustainable housing project for the urban poor in Tamil Nadu.** The Manila-headquartered ADB has said that Tamil Nadu is vital to India's economic growth, contributing 8.54% to India's gross domestic product.
- ✓ Government of Tamil Nadu recently announced its plan to set up **India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in the Palk Bay on the southeast coast. Dugong or sea cow is an endangered marine mammal.** It is facing extinction because of habitat loss, sea pollution, and loss of sea grass. Dugong is found in Gulf of Mannar and at Palk Bay in Tamil Nadu. With the help of community participation, Government will also construct a Dugong Marine Conservation Reserve in the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay area to protect the species.

New higher education panel formed; The Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCHHE) has been reconstituted by the government with the appointment

➤ as

Name	Sector
Ramasamy.A	Vice-Chairman .
S. Krishnasamy	Member secretary

- ✓ Mr. Ramasamy, a former Vice-chancellor of Alagappa University, is a historian. He has written books on the language struggle and Dravidian politics.
 - ✓ He had also served as the Vice-Chairman of TANSCHHE from 2006 to 2011.
 - ✓ The Council has been functioning without a Vice-Chairman since 2016.
 - ✓ Mr. Krishnasamy was an associate professor of history in Pachaiyappa's College.
 - ✓ While the Higher Education Minister will be the head of the Council, the Additional Chief Secretary from the Finance Department, Secretary to the Governor, Principal Secretary of the Higher Education Department, the Director of Collegiate Education, and the Director of Technical Education will be some of its ex-officio members.
- **Centre grants relief package of 800 crore rupees to Tamil Nadu for Covid-19 management**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Health Minister M. Subramaniam said that the Union Government granted a relief package of 800 crore rupees for management of the second wave and prevention of the third wave in the state.
- **President Ramnath Kovind unveiled Karunanidhi's portrait in Tamil Nadu Assembly**
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind participated in an event commemorating the centenary year of the Madras Legislative Council and unveil a portrait of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi inside the Assembly premises.
- **Study finds heavy metals in ambient air in city**
- ✓ The presence of heavy metals, including nickel, manganese and silica, in the ambient air has technically put Chennai in the 'unhealthy' category.

Recent Excavations -in Tamilnadu

- **Sivagalai Archaeological**
- ✓ For the first time, a full human skeleton - was discovered in one of urns found at the Sivagalai archaeological site on July.
 - ✓ The second phase of excavation is underway at the site by the Tamil Nadu state department of archaeology
 - ✓ It is being established under the guidance of the principal investigator department of genetics Dr G Kumaresan and eminent immunologist Dr R M Pitchappan.
- **Ra Ra Peruvazhi**
- ✓ An 800-year-old stone inscription belonging to the reign of Rajaraja Chola I - has been found in Nambuthalai near Thondi in Ramanathapuram district.

- ✓ Ra Ra Peruvazhi, is the name of the east coast highway laid during the period of Rajaraja Cholan.
- **Archaeologists in Pudukkottai** - have discovered three rare Aasiriyam (declaration) stone tablets, dating back to the period between the 13th and 16th centuries
- **The State Archaeology Department - has discovered the remnants of a large ancient conch industry in Korkai in Tuticorin district**
 - ✓ This is the site in which the Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department conducted its first excavation, after it was established in 1969.
- **A terracotta container with an intricately designed band running along its outer surface** - has been unearthed at the archaeological site at Keeladi in Sivaganga during the seventh phase of excavation
 - ✓ The ring wells unearthed in Keeladi, have an interlocking system where sand cannot enter the wells, but air and water could percolate through them.
 - ✓ It is believed that these structures helped inhabitants of Keeladi to have more permanent dwellings and as they had water and did not have the need to migrate during droughts.
- **Archaeologists - have discovered a rubble stone well at the Kodumanal site, close to the banks of river Noyyal near Chennimalai in Erode district**
 - ✓ Earlier, ring wells and brick wells have been found in other archaeological sites in Tamil Nadu like Keezhadi in Sivagangai district
 - ✓ Archaeologists have found evidence for existence of iron smelting unit with furnaces in the site, besides urn burials, beads, pot shreds with brahmi inscriptions, aged 2,300 years.
 - ✓ Kodumanal has yielded the highest number of pot sherds with Tamil brahmi inscriptions
 - Kodumanal site has copper, gold, iron and glass pieces as well as artefacts
 - ✓ There were three types of burial methods - cairn circles, urn burials and urn burials with cists - found at Kodumanal site
- **Konthagi is burial site of Keeladi**
 - ✓ Archaeologists - have identified seven human skeletons in a single quadrant in Konthagai in the Keeladi cluster. Keeladi is considered to have been the industrial hub of a 2,600-year-old civilization
 - ✓ Its neighbouring villages of Konthagai, Agaram and Manalur are also treated as part of this civilization.
 - ✓ At present, the seventh phase of excavation is taking place in Keeladi cluster
 - ✓ The second phase of excavation is being carried out in the three neighbouring villages of Konthagai, Agaram and Manalur by the Tamil Nadu state department of archaeology
 - ✓ As per the recent findings, Konthagai was supposed to be the burial site of the Keeladi civilization.
- **A punch-marked silver coin - was located at the Keeladi excavation site in Sivaganga**
 - ✓ The discovery was announced by Archaeology minister Thangam Thennarasu
 - ✓ The coin having the figures of the sun, moon, bull, taurine, an animal figurine, and geometric designs show that Keeladi inhabitants were a trading community.
 - ✓ Located at a depth of 1.46 m, the punch-marked coin indicates the existence of trade between north and south, particularly with the Gangetic valley.

- ✓ During the ancient period, such silver punch-marked coins were in circulation from the time of Mahajanpadas of the 6th century BCE.
- ✓ Such coins have been recovered from excavations conducted at Alangulam also.

- **Discovery of additional wall at Ariyalur Maligaimedu excavation**
 - ✓ The State Department of Archaeology has made some encouraging finds lower than two months into the excavation at Maligaimedu near Gangaikondacholapuram, the capital of King Rajendra Chola I.

- **Terracotta container with designs found in Keeladi**
 - ✓ A terracotta container, which has intricately designed bands around it, has been unearthed at the Keeladi archaeological site in TamilNadu.

- **Megalithic full-length sword unearthed**
 - ✓ The excavations at Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district have yielded a full-length iron sword broken at places.
 - ✓ This is the first time the Department of Archaeology has unearthed a full-length sword with a handle in Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ The length is 60 cm.

- **Chola era temple in Velachery grabs government's attention**
 - ✓ Work to clean the precincts of Sri Vasudevaperumal temple at Ram Nagar in Velachery will be expedited.
 - ✓ A large part of the temple is covered with thick layer of dirt.
 - ✓ Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments P. Sekarbabu said that officials had been asked to dig out documents and any information relating to the temple.

- **Perforated terracotta distillation pipes unearthed in Korkai**
 - ✓ Nine perforated terracotta pipes, stacked one above the other, have been found during archaeological excavation at Korkai, an ancient site, in Thoothukudi district.

- T.N. Open University begins excavation at **Porpanaikottai** Minister for Environment Siva V. Meyyanathan inaugurated the excavation works taken up by the Tamil Nadu Open University at Porpanaikottai village in Tiruvarangulam panchayat union in the district in a bid to unearth possible archaeological remains.

STATE

- **Pushkar Dhama sworn in as Uttarakhand Chief Minister**
 - ✓ Two-time MLA from Khatima in Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhama was sworn in as the 11th Chief Minister of the State along with an 11-member cabinet
- **The Odisha State Cooperative Handicrafts Corporation Ltd - has submitted the application for the geographical indication (GI) tag to the famous silver filigree of Cuttack**
- **The first case of Zika virus - was reported in the state of Kerala**
- **Ladakh - First Union Territory -to vaccinate.**
 - ✓ The first Union Territory to vaccinate all residents and the migrant labourers, hotel workers and Nepalese citizens who live there, with the first dose of Covid-19 jab.
- **On July, the Assam cabinet - announced the creation of a “Department of indigenous faith and culture” to protect the culture and practices of people belonging to tribal and other indigenous communities.**
- **U.P Population Bill 2021**
 - ✓ The Yogi Adityanath government unveiled the policy on population control for 2021-30 on the occasion of the World Population Day on July.
 - ✓ Uttar Pradesh has a total fertility rate of 2.7% currently, whereas it should ideally be less than 2.1%. The draft Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilization and Welfare) Bill, 2021 - is open for public suggestions in public domain till July
 - ✓ The draft bill, among other provisions, seeks to provide incentives to couples who follow the two-child policy. .
 - ✓ The **Delhi** government has framed a dedicated **policy for the welfare of street children** amidst the pandemic situation. It is prepared by the Delhi government's Women and Child Development Department (WCD). I
- **Balika Panchayat**
 - ✓ Kunariya village in Kutch district in Gujarat - to become the first village in the country to elect a **Balika Panchayat (Girls Council)**
 - ✓ The panchayat is aimed at addressing issues around female adolescents – of the girls, by the girls, for the girls - and empower women in the village
 - ✓ Young females from the village, aged between 10 and 21 years, will contest elections for this unique panchayat.
 - ✓ This “girls only” council will run parallel to the adult village version, but only address issues pertaining to adolescent girls and women in the village.
- **Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana’**
 - ✓ The new scheme was notified by Department of Social Welfare recently.
 - ✓ Under this scheme, Rs 50,000 ex gratia will be provided to every family who lost a member to Covid-19 infection.
 - ✓ Further, an additional pension of Rs 2,500 per month will be provided to the family members, if the deceased was sole breadwinner of the family.

- ✓ Children who lost their both parents or one parent will also be provided Rs 2,500 per month till the age of 25 years alongwith the provision for free education.
- **Telangana's Ramappa temple, also known as Rudreswara temple - becomes the country's 39th world heritage site on July**
 - ✓ The historic Rudreswara temple, an architectural marvel created in stone, became UNESCO's first world heritage site in Telangana
 - ✓ Located at Palampet in Mulugu district, the iconic temple was voted for inclusion in the world heritage sites' list at the 44th virtual session of the World Heritage Committee of the UNESCO, which is currently underway at Fuzhou in China
 - ✓ This temple is known as Ramappa temple, named after the sculptor who, for 40 years, executed the work in the temple.
- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan - virtually launched UNESCO's 'Historic Urban Landscape' project for 'Gwalior and Orchha' cities of the state through video conferencing recently.**
- **The Gujarat High Court has become the first high court to begin live-streaming of court proceedings**
- **Odisha's Puri - becomes India's first city to provide 24x7 piped drinking water supply**
 - ✓ Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik launched "Sujal – Drink from Tap Mission" through a virtual platform
 - ✓ During the launch, the CM said Puri has joined international cities like London, New York and Singapore in supplying round-the-clock quality piped drinking water from taps.
- **Karnataka home minister Basavaraj Bommai - will be sworn in as the 23rd CM of the state on July**
- **Dholavira, a Harappan-era metropolis in the Kutch region of Gujarat - declared as 'UNESCO World Heritage Site' (WHS) on July**
 - ✓ The first representation for Dholavira's inscription was made in 2014 by the Government of India.
 - ✓ The ancient town, found in 1967 and excavated in 1989-90 for the first time, is the second biggest Harappan site after Rakhigarhi in India.
 - ✓ The formal announcement of Dholavira's new title was made during the ongoing 44th session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee.
 - ✓ After Mohenjodaro in Pakistan, Dholavira is the second Harappan site to get the coveted tag in south Asia and the first from India.
- **Uttar Pradesh - has the maximum number of manual scavengers in the country (37,379 people), followed by Maharashtra (7,378) and Assam (4,295), based on two surveys carried out in 2013 and 2018**
- **Pink Protection**
 - ✓ The Kerala Police launched a new initiative called the **Pink Protection** project for the protection of women in public, private and digital spaces.

NATIONAL

- **Delimitation under Rajana Prasad Desai Commission in Jammu & Kashmir**
 - ✓ The delimitation commission - to visit J&K from July 6 to July 9 to interact with political parties, public representatives and officials of the Union Territory
 - ✓ The commission is headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai.
- **CCRISP - World bank**
 - ✓ The World Bank - has approved a \$500 million programme to support India's informal workforce, including gig workers and migrants
 - ✓ Of the total commitment, \$112.5 million will be financed by a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), World Bank's concessionary lending arm
 - ✓ The latest assistance is granted further to the \$1.15 billion committed already by World Bank to support schemes in the country under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana
 - ✓ This aid is offered as per a program called 'Creating a Coordinated and Responsive Indian Social Protection System (CCRISP)
- **Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation Bill, 2021**
 - ✓ The ministry of women and child development - has released the draft of the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021 in the public domain, asking for feedback till July
 - ✓ The bill once finalised will need the Cabinet approval and assent of both Houses of Parliament to become a law.
 - ✓ The new bill aims to tighten the punishment on traffickers and ensures a rehabilitation framework for survivors
 - ✓ As per the new bill, any person committing an offence of "trafficking in persons" shall be punished with imprisonment not less than seven years but which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to a fine of at least one lakh rupees.
- **NIPUN Bharat**
 - ✓ The initiative will be undertaken by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
 - ✓ NIPUN is the short form for 'National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy'
 - ✓ The programme intends to provide an easily accessible environment for basic education and numerical knowledge.
 - ✓ Under the initiative, every child will be provided the desired learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of class 3, by 2026-27
- **On July, the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) was made part of the finance ministry**
 - ✓ The move is intended to speed up the privatisation process and gain more control over state-run-enterprises
- **Capital city, Delhi - saw the most dramatic increase of 125% in the level of the key pollutant, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), during the same period between April 2020 and April 2021**

- **Union Minister for Road transport - Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the country's first commercial liquified natural gas (LNG) filling station in Nagpur on July**
- **LIC to be Privatised**
 - ✓ The Union Cabinet - has approved the share sale of the state-run insurance giant, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
 - ✓ The government, which holds 100% equity holding in LIC, is planning to sell a portion of its stake in the process.
 - ✓ LIC's IPO is expected to be the biggest in India with many analysts expecting a share sale in excess of Rs.1 lakh crore.
 - ✓ It is part of the government's plan to raise Rs.1.75 lakh from asset sales in state - run companies in the current fiscal year which ends in March.
 - ✓ The government aims to complete strategic sale of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), Shipping Corp, Container Corporation, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd, Pawan Hans and Air India, among others, by March 2022.
 - ✓ Besides, IDBI Bank would be privatised in the current fiscal
- **The centre - had recently released Unified District Information System for Education Plus report (UDISE+) for 2019-2020.**
 - ✓ UDISE+, which was launched in 2018-2019, is the largest Management Information Systems on school education.
 - ✓ It covers 1.5 million schools, 8.5 million teachers and 250 million children.
 - ✓ It is an advanced and improved version of UDISE that was launched in 2012-2013 by integrating DISE for elementary education & SEMIS for secondary education.
 - ✓ UDISE+ helps in measuring education parameters across classes 1 to 12 in government as well as private schools in India
- **66A- IT Act**
 - ✓ The Union Home Ministry - has asked all states and Union Territories to instruct police stations not to register fresh cases under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act.
 - ✓ The Supreme Court in its judgment on March 24, 2015 in the case of Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India, had scrapped Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 calling it "vague and arbitrary".
 - ✓ According to the SC, the section was repealed for being violative of the right to free speech guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution } Under the scrapped Section 66A of the IT Act, a person posting offensive messages could be imprisoned for up to three years alongwith fine.
 - ✓ The Centre has requested that if any case has been booked in states and UTs under section 66A of the IT Act, 2000, such cases should be immediately withdrawn.
- KHADI**
 - ✓ Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) - has secured trademark registration for its brand name "Khadi" in three countries - Mexico, Bhutan and United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- **The Centre - has moved a proposal to amend the 102nd constitutional amendment Act, enacted in 2018, to restore state's power to decide OBCs**
 - ✓ The proposal will overturn the May 5 Supreme Court judgment in the Maratha reservation case by a 5-judge Constitution Bench

- ✓ As per the verdict, only the President can declare any community as OBC based on the recommendation of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
 - ✓ The proposal seeks to restore the rights of states to identify the OBCs for the “state list” of castes eligible for Mandal reservations in education and employment under state governments.
 - ✓ The 102nd Constitution Amendment adds two clauses in Article 342 as Article 324A on the President declaring any socially or educationally backward class, in consultation with the state governor.
 - ✓ The draft Bill was readied by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
 - ✓ It seeks to add a clarification clause in Article 342A that the state governments shall have the power to identify and include the OBCs or socially and educationally backward classes in their respective lists The third clause will have to be inserted as Article 342A(3)
 - ✓ Accordingly, the third clause will state that the power to notify the OBCs on the state list would be with the state governments.
- **The Lok Sabha - passed the Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020, and the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021.**
 - ✓ The Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was moved for consideration and passage by the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman
 - ✓ The changes in the legislation are aimed at helping the MSME sector to overcome the problems of delayed payments
 - ✓ The amendments to the factoring law are based on the recommendations of the U K Sinha Committee.
 - **In a landmark decision, the Union government - has announced a 27% reservation for OBC, and a 10% reservation for EWS candidates in the All India Quota for UG and PG medical/dental courses in state-run colleges from the current academic year 2021-22 onwards**
 - ✓ The All India Quota (AIQ) Scheme was introduced in 1986 under the directions of the Supreme Court
 - ✓ It seeks to provide merit-based opportunities to students from any state aspiring to study in a good medical college in another state
 - **Union Minister of State for Earth Sciences, Jitendra Singh - launched a new portal for 'Earth System Science Data' during the 15th foundation day event of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) on June.**
 - **The government - introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha to replace the Ordinance on the constitution of the Commission for Air Quality Management in Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas**
 - **The Geological Survey of India (GSI) - has taken up seven lithium exploration projects in Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan**
 - **India's first 'Grain ATM' opened in Gurugram**
 - ✓ The country's first 'Grain ATM' has been set up as a pilot project in Gurugram, Haryana. It is an automatic machine, which works just like a bank ATM.

- **KVIC project 'BOLD' to boost tribal income**
 - ✓ KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission) has launched Project BOLD (**Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Draught**), a first-of-its-kind exercise, to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones.
- **India's first driverless pod taxis will connect Jewar international airport with Greater Noida**
 - ✓ The first-ever pod taxi service in India is soon to start running between the upcoming Noida International Greenfield Airport (or Jewar Airport) and Noida Film City in Greater Noida, having a distance of around 14 km.
- **The Reserve Bank of India has accorded its approval to the Government of the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh to acquire 8.23 per cent of the paid-up equity capital of Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited as on the date on enforcement of Jammu and Kashmir reorganization Act 2019.**
- **NTPC Ltd., India's largest power generator is set to construct the country's single-largest solar photovoltaic project at Rann of Kutch region in Khavada, Gujarat.**
 - ✓ The solar power park will have a capacity of 4.75 Gigawatt (Gw)/4750 MW.
- **The union government has created a Ministry of Cooperation to boost the Indian cooperative movement and give a fillip to the indigenous enterprises.**
 - ✓ The new ministry of Cooperation will work to realise the vision of "Sahkar -se - Samridhi" and will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework
- **IOC to set up first 'green hydrogen' plant at Mathura**
 - ✓ State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), India's largest oil firm, will build the first 'green hydrogen' plant of the country at its Mathura refinery, to meet the growing demand for both oil and cleaner forms of energy.
- **Government to set up Indian Heritage Institute in Noida**
- **Digital Platform "Kisan Sarathi" launched to facilitate farmers**
 - ✓ In order to facilitate farmers to get 'right information at right time' in their desired language, a digital platform namely 'KisanSarathi' was launched jointly by Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Centre launches 'Matsya Setu' mobile app for Indian aqua farmers**
 - ✓ The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Giriraj Singh has launched a mobile app named 'Matsya Setu' on July 06, 2021 for fish farmers.
- **The 14 tiger reserves of India that have received prestigious global accreditation from CA|TS are:**
 - ✓ Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserves, Tamil Nadu
 - ✓ Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka
 - ✓ Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala
 - ✓ Sunderbans Tiger Reserve, West Bengal
 - ✓ Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar
- ✓ Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra
- ✓ Satpura, Kanha and Panna Tiger Reserves, Madhya Pradesh
- ✓ Orang, Manas and Kaziranga in Assam



SCHEMES

- **Government extends Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana deadline till March 2022**
 - ✓ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that Government extended the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) by nine months till March 31, 2022.
 - ✓ The Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana was set to expire on June 30, 2021. Around 21.4 lakh benefited from this scheme since its launch.
 - ✓ The Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) is an employment generation scheme that encourages the creation of normal jobs in the country.

- **Pension orders given under PRAYAS project**
 - ✓ The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in Tambaram distributed Pension Payment Orders (PPOs) to the retiring employees of two organisations through the PRAYAS project.
 - ✓ PRAYAS is an initiative of the EPFO, whereby the PPOs are distributed to the employees on the day of superannuation itself.

- **Cabinet approves continuation of centrally sponsored scheme National AYUSH Mission for 5 years from FY 2021-2026**
 - ✓ The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'National AYUSH Mission (NAM)' for another five years.
 - ✓ Centre has allocated Rs. 4607.30 crore (Rs 3,000 crore as Central Share and Rs. 1607.30 crore as State Share) for the scheme to be invested over five years.
 - ✓ The NAM Mission was first launched on 15 September, 2014.
 - ✓ The objective of the mission is to provide cost effective AYUSH Services by focusing on core competency areas of AYUSH like Ayurveda, Sidhha, Sowa Rigpa, Unani and also Homeopathy (ASU&H) which are a treasure house of knowledge for preventive, promotive and curative healthcare.

- **Centre extends 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to 2025**
 - ✓ The Government of India has extended the duration of 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to the year 2025.

- **One Bharat, Unnat Bharat ,scheme: UGC Instruction for Educational Institutions**
 - ✓ The UGC has instructed to send a report on the programs conducted in the educational institutions under the 'One Bharat Unnata Bharat' scheme of the Central Government.

- **SMILE Scheme - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**
 - ✓ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has developed a scheme called "SMILE' Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise," which includes a sub-scheme called "Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Involved in Begging.

COURT VERDICTS

- **The Supreme Court - sets aside provisions of Tribunal Reforms Ordinance 2021 brought by the Centre with respect to the four-year tenure for members and chairpersons of tribunals**

INTERNATIONAL

- **China - celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of Communist Party of China**
- **“Bulletin”**
 - ✓ Facebook - launches its standalone subscription newsletter platform ‘Bulletin’
- **Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba - formally became the Prime Minister of Nepal for a record fifth time after the Supreme Court’s intervention.**
- **Cuba - has developed world’s first conjugate Covid-19 vaccine named as ‘Soberana 2’ (Sovereign 2)**
- **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021 Report: UN-FAO**
 - ✓ The annual UN-FAO report titled “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021” states that between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger in 2020.
- **7th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium Concludes in France**
 - ✓ The 7th edition of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), concluded in France on July 01, 2021.
 - ✓ The biennial event was hosted by the French Navy at La Réunion from 28 June to 01 July 2021.
- **EU’s ‘Green Passport’**
 - ✓ The European Union implemented the EU Digital COVID Certificate (EUDCC) or the “Green Passport”, which allows ease of intra-European travel for passengers who have taken one of four vaccines ‘recognised’ by **the European Medicines Agency (EMA)**.
- **World’s largest carbon market in China**
 - ✓ The largest carbon market in the world has been opened up by China.
 - ✓ The country is the largest greenhouse emitter in the world.
 - ✓ The project of the carbon market was announced by China 3 years ago, however, it was dodged due to delays.
 - ✓ The scheme will put a cap on energy plants by allocating emission allowances.
- **World’s first country to approve genetically modified ‘golden rice’ for commercial production**
 - ✓ The Philippines has become the first country in the world to get approval for the commercial production of genetically modified “golden rice”, a variety of rice enriched with nutrients to help reduce childhood malnutrition.

- **GI-tagged King Chilli 'Raja Mircha' from Nagaland exported to London for the first time**
 - ✓ A batch of 'Raja Mircha,' also known as king chilli, from Nagaland was exported to London through Guwahati by air for the first time on July 28, 2021, giving a big boost to exports of Geographical Indications (GI) items from the north-eastern region.
 - ✓ According to Scoville Heat Units (SHUs), the King Chilli is considered as the world's hottest chilli and is constantly on the top five in the list of the world's hottest chilies.
- **China has officially begun the construction of the world's first commercial modular small reactor 'Linglong One' at the Changjiang Nuclear Power Plant in the country's Hainan Province.**
 - ✓ The project is based on China National Nuclear Corporation's (CNNC's Linglong One (ACP100) technology.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her Bhutanese counterpart Lyonpo Namgay Tshering - launched BHIM UPI, the Indian government's digital payment app in Bhutan through a virtual ceremony on July**
- **The trial run of new rail line between Jayanagar in Bihar's Madhubani district and Kurtha in Dhanusa district of Nepal was completed successfully**
- **The Indian Railway - started an Oxygen Express carrying 200 tonnes of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) from Tatanagar in Jharkhand to Benapole in Bangladesh**

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated and addressed the Co-Win Global conclave 2021**
- **India participated in the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) meeting, jointly organised by Iceland and Japan and virtually hosted by Japan, for discussing research and cooperation in the Arctic.**
- **The 11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting - was held on July 21 through video conference**
 - ✓ The MGC initiative involves 6 countries – India, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam
 - ✓ It was launched in 2000 to ensure cooperation among the partner countries in a range of areas including transport, communication, tourism, education and culture.
 - ✓ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar co-chaired the meeting alongwith Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Prak Sokhonn
 - ✓ During the meeting, the foreign ministers from Mekong countries reviewed the progress made on cooperative efforts since their 10th meeting in Bangkok on August 1, 2019.

DEFENCE

- **INS Tabar exercise with Italian Navy off Naples, Italy**
 - ✓ INS Tabar, a Talwar-class frigate of the Indian Navy, exercises with the Italian Navy.
 - ✓ On 03 July 2021, INS Tabar entered the Port of Naples, Italy as part of the ongoing deployment to the Mediterranean.
- **Operation Sankalp: Sixteen Indian flagged vessels provided safe passage**
 - ✓ Twenty-three warships have been deployed so far in the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to protect and provide safe passage for Indianflagged merchant vessels transiting through the region.
- **'Exercise Shield' maritime exercise held between India, Sri Lanka & Maldives**
 - ✓ A Tri Nation Table Top Anti-Narcotics & Maritime Search and Rescue exercise (Exercise Shield) between Maldives National Defence Force, Sri Lanka Navy and Indian Navy was conducted in virtual mode for the first time on 14 and 15 July 2021 with Indian Navy as the lead agency.
- **INS Talwar Participates in Maritime Exercise Cutlass Express 2021**
 - ✓ The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Talwar is participating in multinational maritime exercise named 'Cutlass Express 2021 (CE21)', which has been organised along the East Coast of Africa, in Mombasa, Kenya.
- **Indo-Russia Joint Military Drill 'Exercise INDRA 2021**
 - ✓ The 12th Edition of Indo-Russia joint military exercise called 'Exercise INDRA 2021' will be held at Volgograd, Russia from 01 to 13 August 2021.
- **P- 8I Poseidon**
 - ✓ Indian Navy - has recently received its 10th long-range anti-submarine warfare and maritime patrol aircraft P-8I Poseidon from the US-based aerospace company, Boeing.
- **'Project - 75 India (P- 75)'**
 - ✓ The Union government - had issued the tender for the longpending Rs.50,000 crore (almost \$7 billion) mega diesel-electric submarine building programme called 'Project-75 India (P-75I)'
- **Indian Navy ships missile frigate Satpura, Jyoti, Kavaratti, destroyer Ranvir, Kulish, and a Kilo-class submarine took part in PASSEX**
- **The Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli (OFT) - launched a new weapon called TriCa (Trichy Carbine), a mini version of the Trichy Assault Rifle (TAR).**

ECONOMICS

- Global ratings agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) - retained the long-term rating of India at BBB(-) with a 'stable' outlook

Slipping Grades

Global agencies of India

Agency	Rating	Outlook
Moody's	BAA3	Negative
S & P	BBB-	Stable
Fitch	BBB-	Negative

- **NARCL - Bad Bank**
 - ✓ The National Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd (NARCL) - has been registered with the Registrar of Companies (RoC) in Mumbai with a paid-up capital of Rs.74.6 crore
 - ✓ Called as the 'Bad bank', the new legal entity will be headed by Padmakumar Madhavan Nair, a stressed assets expert from State Bank of India (SBI), as the managing director
 - ✓ The setting up of the bad bank is part of the government's efforts to clean up India's financial system with biggest piles of bad assets
 - ✓ As announced in the budget for FY22, NARCL will house bad loan accounts of Rs.500 crore, or more
- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) - slashed India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to 9.5% for 2021-22, from its earlier estimate of 12.5%**
- **GST Council decides extra-neutral alcohol taxation to stay with states**
 - ✓ The GST Council has decided to continue with the status quo on states taxing Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA), which is used for manufacturing alcoholic liquor for human consumption.
- **IDFC First Bank launches 'Ghar Ghar Ration' scheme**
 - ✓ The IDFC First Bank has launched a unique Employee-funded program called 'Ghar Ghar Ration' for its low-income customers who were affected by Covid-19.
- **IMF Approves \$ 650 Billion Expansion to Fight Covid-19 Pandemic**
 - ✓ The executive board of the International Monetary Fund approved a \$650 billion expansion in resources to support economically vulnerable nations as they battle the coronavirus pandemic.
- **India Aims to Target over 100 Billion "Blue Economy"**
 - ✓ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh stated that in the years to come, India aims to target over 100 billion "Blue Economy" through its Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) and ocean resources.
 - ✓ This could be a new avenue to supplement the country's economy to the tune of an estimated 110 billion.

- ✓ The “Deep Ocean Mission” will also have far reaching benefits for the common man.
- **Centre releases Rs 75,000 crore to states, UTs as GST compensation**
 - ✓ The government announced it has released Rs 75,000 crore to the states and Union Territories to compensate them for the shortfall in GST revenue.
- **India's economic growth to start hitting 6.5-7% from FY23 onwards: CEA**
 - ✓ The country’s economy will start witnessing a growth of 6.5 to 7 per cent from fiscal 2023 onwards, helped by various reforms undertaken by the government so far and also as Covid-19 vaccination drive progresses, Chief Economic Advisor **Krishnamurthy Subramanian**.
- **Cabinet approves Rs 6.29-lakh crore COVID-19 relief package announced by FM**
 - ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the Rs 6.29-lakh crore relief package announced by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** to support the pandemic-hit economy.

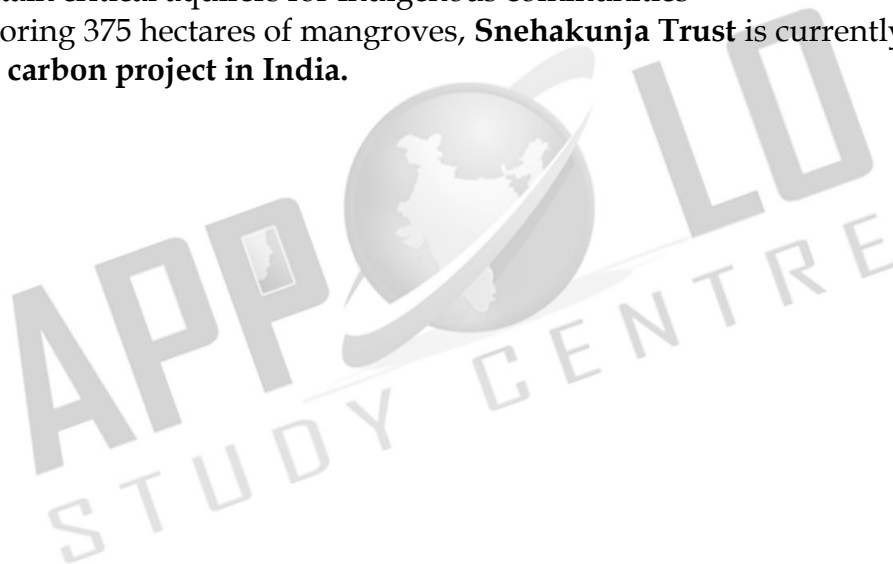


APPOINTMENTS

- **The U.S. State Department - announced the appointment of Atul Keshap as the interim Chargé d'Affaires (CDA) in New Delhi**
- **The Centre - has extended the tenure of NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Amitabh Kant, by one more year till June 2022.**
 - ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by PM Modi, has approved the extension in tenure of Amitabh Kant, CEO, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)
- **Andy Jassy - officially takes over as the CEO of Amazon from Jeff Bezos on July**
- **Eric Garcetti _ New Ambassador to India**
 - ✓ Eric Garcetti, a Democratic Party insider from California and Mayor of Los Angeles - was nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as the new US ambassador to India in New Delhi on July.
 - ✓ **Rasmi Ranjan Das, a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, has been appointed as member of the UN tax committee for the 2021 to 2025**
- **President Joe Biden - has nominated Indian-American Dr Rahul Gupta, West Virginia's former health commissioner, as the top anti-drug official of the United States**

AWARDS

- **Renowned Odia poet, Dr Rajendra Kishore Panda - has been awarded Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar 2020**
- **First Blue Carbon Project**
 - ✓ Two Indian organizations, **Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar** Producer Company Limited and **Snehakunja Trust** - are announced among the 10 winners of the prestigious **Equator Prize for their work in the field of conservation and biodiversity**
 - ✓ **Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar** Producer Company Limited is a 1,700-member cooperative, managed and run entirely by Indigenous people from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Southern India
 - ✓ **Snehakunja Trust** has protected sensitive wetland and coastal ecosystems in the Western Ghats and the Karnataka coast for 45 years
 - ✓ They were involved in the restoration and protection of freshwater swamps and evergreen forests to safeguard endangered species, keep significant carbon sinks intact, and maintain critical aquifers for Indigenous communities
 - ✓ After restoring 375 hectares of mangroves, **Snehakunja Trust** is currently working on the **first blue carbon project in India.**



PERSONALITIES

- **Sirisha Bandla is the second Indian born woman to fly to space**
 - ✓ Sirisha Bandla of Indian origin is set to become the second Indian-born woman to fly into space after Kalpana Chawla.

- **EAM Jaishankar unveils statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Georgia**
 - ✓ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Georgia at a prominent Tbilisi park.

- **Oliver - Daemen**
 - ✓ An 18-year old Dutch student, **Oliver Daemen** - to become the youngest person to fly in space with Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin on July.

- **'China Room'**
 - ✓ Indian-origin British novelist Sunjeev Sahota - is among 13 authors longlisted for this year's **Booker Prize for fiction** for his novel '**China Room**'
 - ✓ The 40-year-old, whose grandparents emigrated from Punjab in the 1960s, has been previously shortlisted for the 2015 Booker Prize for '**The Year of the Runaways**'.

STUDY

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- **Virgin Galactic's VSS**
 - ✓ British entrepreneur Sir Richard Branson - became the first person to blast off to space in his own spaceship 'Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity' on July
 - ✓ **Amazon's Jeff Bezos** is expected to take his trip to space on July 20, the 52nd anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, on Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket.
- **Mars and Venus – two of the Earth's closest neighbours – came closest to each other in the sky - in July**
- **Ectoine**
 - ✓ Ectoine is a molecule which is capable of protecting the skin from ultraviolet radiation and has anti-ageing properties
- **China - unveiled a maglev train capable of a top speed of 600kmph on July**
- **A group of astronomers - have detected a short and powerful burst of high energy (gamma-ray) radiation lasting for about a second**
 - ✓ The burst was detected by Nasa's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope
 - ✓ The shortest gamma-ray burst (GRB) is caused by the death of a massive star
 - ✓ GRBs are among the brightest and most energetic events in the universe, detectable across billions of light years.
- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - successfully conducted the third long-duration hot test of the liquid propellant Vikas engine for the Gaganyaan programme, the country's first manned mission to space.**
 - ✓ The test was done for the core L110 liquid stage of the human-rated GSLV MkIII vehicle
 - ✓ The engine was fired for 4 minutes at the test facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu
 - ✓ The objective of the Gaganyaan programme is to demonstrate the capability to send humans to low earth orbit onboard an Indian launch vehicle and bring them back to earth
 - ✓ Four Indian astronaut candidates have already undergone generic space flight training in Russia as part of the Gaganyaan Programme.
- **For the first time ever, astronomers - have found evidence of water vapour in the atmosphere of Jupiter's moon 'Ganymede'**
- **Mynvax, a vaccine technology startup incubated by the Indian Institute of Science's Society for Innovation and Development - has developed a 'thermotolerant' or 'warm' vaccine effective against all current SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern.**
- **Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad - have developed India's first Rapid electronic Covid-19 RNA Test kit that allows self-testing at home called 'COVIHO**

SPORTS

- **Tamil Nadu - to send five athletes from the state for the Tokyo Olympics Games, out of the total 26-member athletics team announced**
 - ✓ The first time that five from the state have been named in the athletics squad
 - ✓ 1.Arokia Rajiv, 2.Naganathan Pandi (both in men's 4x400m relay), 3.Revathi Veeramani, 4.Subha Venkatesan and
 - ✓ 5.S Dhanalakshmi (all in 4x400m mixed relay) are named in the athletics squad for the marquee event.

- **Youngest grandmaster**
 - ✓ Indian-American Abhimanyu Mishra - becomes the youngest Grandmaster in chess.

- **Maana Patel - has become the first Indian female swimmer to qualify for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics through universality quota**

- **Top para high-jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu was named the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent at the Tokyo Paralympics, which begin on August 24.**

- **First Married Couple to Play Wimbledon**
 - ✓ Indian tennis player Divij Sharan and his British wife Samantha Murray - have become the first married couple to play the Wimbledon mixed doubles in the last 52 years.

- **The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) - announced six-time world boxing champion M C Mary Kom and men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh as India's flag-bearers for the Tokyo Olympics' opening ceremony on July 23 at the Japan National Stadium.**
 - ✓ It will be the first time that the country's official Games contingent will have two flag-bearers - one male and one female - to ensure "gender parity", as has been advocated by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
 - ✓ Star wrestler and World No.1 in men's freestyle 65kg category, Bajrang Punia, will lead the Indian contingent at the closing ceremony on August 8
 - ✓ Mary Kom will be featuring in her last Olympics in Tokyo, after winning the historic bronze at the 2012 London Games.
 - ✓

- **COPA AMERICA**
 - ✓ **Argentina** - defeated Brazil by a solitary goal at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on July 10 to claim their first Copa America title since 1993

- **World No. 1 Novak Djokovic - won a record-equalling 20th Grand Slam title and sixth Wimbledon title after defeating first-time finalist Matteo Berrettini of Italy in a four set final**

- **Wimbledon Boy Title**
 - ✓ Samir Banerjee, 17-year old Indian-American from New Jersey - defeated Victor Lillov (USA) 7-5, 6-3 to clinch the Wimbledon boys title and his first gram slam.

- **Euro 2020 Roll of Honour**
 - ✓ Italy - won the European Championship 2020 by beating England 3-2 on penalties on July 11 at Wembley, UK

- ✓ Italy last won the Euro in Rome in 1968, the first time a team clinched the title on home soil.
- **Star shooter Saurabh Chaudhary- has featured in the Time magazine's recently-released list of 'athletes to watch out for at Tokyo Olympics'**
 - ✓ Saurabh is the only Indian to make it to the coveted list
- **Deepak Kabra - has become the first Indian to judge the gymnastics competition of the Olympic Games**
 - ✓ Kabra will officiate in the men's artistic gymnasts at the Tokyo Games, which starts on July 23
 - ✓ Kabra became the first Indian judge to officiate in the 2014 Asian Games and Youth Olympics
 - ✓ Kabra was appointed as a member of the Asian Gymnastics Union's technical committee in 2018.
- **Nobel Peace Prize awardee Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh - will become the second recipient of the Olympic Laurel**
 - ✓ Yunus will receive the trophy during the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Games on July
- **35th Olympic Games, scheduled to be held in 2032**
 - ✓ Australian city, Brisbane - was awarded the rights to host the 35th Olympic Games, scheduled to be held in 2032.
 - ✓ 2024 - Paris
 - ✓ 2028 - Los Angeles In USA
 - ✓ 2032 -Australia
- **The Tokyo 2020 Olympics - will officially start on July 23 at the National Stadium in the Japanese capital, Tokyo**
 - ✓ Japanese Emperor Naruhito will formally open the Olympic Games as his grandfather Hirohito did in 1964.
- **Japan's World No. 2 tennis player Naomi Osaka - served as the final Olympic torchbearer for the Tokyo Olympic Games and lit the Olympic flame during the opening ceremony held in Tokyo on July.**
- **Ace Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu - clinched a silver medal and became the first Indian to win an Olympic medal at the 2020 Tokyo Games in the women's 49kg weightlifting event on July**
- **Papua New Guinea's Loa Dika Toua - made history as the first female to compete in five Olympic weightlifting competitions on July**
- **Triathlete Flora Duffy - bagged the first Olympic gold medal in history for the tiny island of Bermuda in Tokyo.**
 - ✓ The 33-year-old crossed the line in the women's race ahead of Britain's Georgia Taylor-Brown, with US athlete Katie Zaferes taking bronze.

OBITUARY

- **Legendary actor Dilip Kumar (98 years)**
- **Doyen of Ayurveda and managing trustee of Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala (AVS), Dr P K Warriar - passed away in Kerala on July 10, a month after celebrating his 100 birthday on June**
 - ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind and PM Narendra Modi condoled his demise.
 - ✓ Warriar was honoured with Padma Shri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2010.
 - ✓ Dr P K Warriar played a monumental role in popularizing Ayurveda across the world and in building a bridge between traditional Indian systems of healing and modern science.
- **India's oldest learner and Nari Shakthi awardee, Bhageerathi amma (107 years) of Kollam district in Kerala - passed away on July following age-related illness**
- **Prominent Tamil scholar Pulavar R Ilankumaranar (94 years) - passed away late on July 25 at his residence in Madurai due to age-related health issues**
 - ✓ Ilankumaranar participated in the grand function of installation of the 133 feet tall statue of saint-poet Thiruvalluvar in Kanyakumari by the then chief minister M Karunanidhi
 - ✓ In 2003, the then President APJ Abdul Kalam released Ilaknumaranar's yet another book titled 'Sanga Ilakkiya Varisaiyil Purananooru'.
 - ✓ Madurai Kamaraj University, where he worked as a guest lecturer, honoured him with 'Tamil Peravi Semmal' award in 2009

APP
STUDY CENTRE

RANKING

- **Global - Cyber Security India - GCI**
 - ✓ India - has been ranked at 10th position with a score of 97.5 in the Global Cyber Security Index (GCI) 2020, moving up by 37 places from the 2019 index
- **India ranked 20th in Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021**
 - ✓ India stands at the 20th spot among the top 100 countries that have been ranked in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 by Startup Blink.
 - ✓ The country was in the 17th spot in 2019.

REPORT

- **UN-FAO Report**
 - ✓ The annual UN-FAO report titled **"The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021"** states that between **720 and 811 million people** in the world faced hunger in 2020, which is around **161 million more than in 2019**.
 - ✓ The report was jointly produced by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Billionaires Richard Branson and Jeff Bezos - will cross the space frontier at 100km up in the sky and spend about 5 minutes each in zero gravity, within the next 10 days.**
 - ✓ They will be the first amateurs to do so in privately designed and owned spacecraft
 - ✓ Amazon founder Jeff Bezos announced he would take a trip to space with his brother Mark on July 20
 - ✓ Anousheh Ansari, became the first woman commercial traveller – fourth overall – in September 2006.
 - ✓ Global financial services firm, UBS expects space tourism to be a \$3-billion market by 2030.
- **Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, the world's richest man - became the planet's wealthiest "astronaut" on July 20, after travelling to outer space in his own rocket to mark a new era in private space travel**
- **In 30 Years of Liberalisation - Report, 10 Reforms that changed India**
- **NEW INDUSTRIAL POLICY**
 - ✓ Industrial licensing was abolished and 18 PSU industries were gradually liberalised
 - ✓ Monopolies And Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1969, was abolished
- **FDI& TRADE POLICY**
 - ✓ Import licensing was £ B^{\wedge} abolished for capital goods & intermediates. which became freely importable in 1993, simultaneously with the switch to a flexible exchange rate regime
 - ✓ India joined the World Trade Organization and Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights agreement

- ✓ Quantitative restrictions on imports of manufactured consumer goods and agricultural products removed in 2001. The policy now allows 100% foreign ownership in many industries and majority ownership in all except banking, insurance, telecommunications and airlines
- ✓ Current account convertibility introduced in 1994
- **NEW INSTITUTIONS**
 - ✓ Securities and Exchange Board of India established
 - ✓ Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority and Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority set up
 - ✓ Union Budget created 'development finance institutions' and 'bad banks' to fund infrastructure and resolve stressed assets
 - ✓ GST Council established
- **GOVERNMENT BORROWING**
 - ✓ Domestic bond markets created and Clearing Corporation of India is set up
- **INTEREST RATE LIBERALISATION**
 - ✓ Interest rate controls were dismantled and savings interest rates were deregulated
- **BASEL ACCORDS**
 - ✓ Basel Accords, a series of 3 international banking regulation agreements, adopted.
- **DNFSA&MGNREGS**
 - ✓ NFSA legally entitled up to 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidised food grain under the Targeted Public Distribution System
 - ✓ MGNREGS guaranteed 100 days of wage-employment per year in rural areas
- **AADHAAR**
 - ✓ Aadhaar system provided a single-source offline/online identity verification, boosting the inclusion of programmes like PMJDY, Ayushman Bharat and Ujjwala
- **INSOLVENCY & BANKRUPTCY CODE**
 - ✓ A comprehensive law, IBC consolidated both consequential aspects of an economic collapse of a debtor - rehabilitation as well as liquidation
- **MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE**
 - ✓ MPC was set up with basic objective to maintain price stability and accelerate the economy's growth rate. It has brought monetary policy decision making in line with global best practice

IMPORTANT DAYS

Day	Theme	Significances
<u>July 1</u> National Doctor's Day	"Save The Saviours."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Roy was born on July 1, 1882, and passed away on July 1, 1962
<u>July 11</u> World Population Day	"Rights and Choices are the Answer: Whether baby boom or bust, the solution to shifting fertility rates lies in prioritising all people's reproductive health and rights."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First World Population Day - July 11, 1989 • Established by - UNDP.
<u>July 12</u> World Malala Day	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observed by United Nations from 2013. • To honour of the young Pakistani human rights activist, Malala Yousafzai.
<u>July 15</u> World Youth Skills Day	"Re imagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declared by: - United Nations General Assembly.
<u>July 17</u> World Day for International Justice or International Justice Day	"Social justice in the digital economy".	The day marks the importance of bringing justice for the victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.
<u>July 22</u> World Brain Day	"Stop Multiple Sclerosis"	The day was first observed in 2014
<u>July 23</u> National Broadcasting Day	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Radio Broadcast - 1927, from Bombay Station.
<u>July 24</u> Aaykar Diwas (Income Tax Day)	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observed by :- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) • 161st Income Tax Day
<u>July 26</u> Kargil Vijay Diwas	-	It is celebrated to honour the Kargil War's Heroes.
<u>July 28</u> World Hepatitis Day	"Hepatitis Can't Wait"	Screening and vaccination of healthcare workers against hepatitis B at government and private hospitals marked World Hepatitis Day.
<u>July 29</u> International Tiger Day	"Their Survival is in our hands"	<u>Tiger Reserves</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India - 52 • Tamil Nadu - 5 <u>Tiger Population</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ India - 2967 ♦ Tamil Nadu - 264

Apex

Cabinet Reshuffle: 43 leaders take oath as ministers

New Cabinet Ministers 2021	
New Cabinet Ministers	Portfolios
Narayan Rane	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Minister of AYUSH
Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
Jyotiraditya Scindia	Minister of Civil Aviation
Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Minister of Steel
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Minister of Food Processing Industries
Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Law and Justice
Raj Kumar Singh	Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy
Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Bhupendra Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Labour and Employment
Parshottam Rupala	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
G Kishan Reddy	Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
Anurag Singh Thakur	Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

SI. No	Ministers of State (Independent Charge)	Ministry
1	Rao Inderjit Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
2	Dr Jitendra Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space

New Ministers of State

Ministers of State	Minister of State In
Pankay Chaudhary	Ministry of finance
Anupriya Singh Patel	Ministry of commerce and industry
Satya Pal Singh Bhagel	Ministry of Law and Justice
	Ministry of skill development and entrepreneur ship: and Ministry of electronics and information technology
Shobha Karandlaje	Ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare
Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Dardhana Vikram Jardosh	Ministry of textiles: and Ministry of Railways
Meenakshi Lekhi	Ministry of external affairs: and Ministry of culture
Annapurna Devi	Ministry of education
A Narayanaswamy	Ministry of Social Justice in power meant
Kaushal Kishore	Ministry of housing and urban affairs
Ajay Bhatt	Ministry of defence: and Ministry of tourism
BL Verma	Ministry of development of North Eastern region: and Minister of cooperation
Ajay Kumar	Ministry of home affairs

Chauhan Devusinh	Ministry of communications
Bhagwanth Khuba	Ministry of new and Renewable Energy: Ministry of chemicals and fertilizers
Kapil Moreshwas Patil	Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Pratima Bhoumik	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Subhas Sarkar	Ministry of Education
Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad	Ministry of Finance
Rajkumar Ranjan Singh	Ministry of external affairs: and Ministry of education
Bharati Pravin Pawar	Ministry of health and family welfare
Bishweswar Tudu	Ministry of tribal affairs: Ministry Ministry of Jal Shakti
Shantanu Thakur	Ministry of ports, shipping and waterways
Munjapara Mahendrabhai	Ministry of women and Child development: and Ministry of AYUSH
John Barla	Ministry of minority affairs
Dr L Murugan	Ministry of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying; minister of information and Broadcasting
Nisith Pramanik	Ministry of home affairs: and Ministry of youth affairs and sports

Complete list of new governors:

SI.no	State	New Governor
1	Karnataka	Thawarchand Gehlot
2	Madhya Pradesh	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
3	Mizoram	Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati
4	Himachal Pradesh	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
5	Goa	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
6	Tripura	Satyadev Narayan Arya
7	Jharkhand	Ramesh Bais
8	Haryana	Bandaru Dattatraya

CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST (1 - 31), 2021

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TAMIL NADU

- **T.N.'s Seroprevalence at 66.2%**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu has an overall **seroprevalence** of 66.2%, according to the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine's phase-III cross-sectional survey conducted during July.
 - ✓ Among the 38 districts, **Virudhunagar** had the highest seropositivity at 84% while Erode had the lowest at 37%.
- **T.N. legislature turns 100**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu witnessed elections in **November 1920** when electors (only men), accounting for **just 3% of the population**, were enrolled, as a result of the **Montagu-Chelmsford Report** and the Government of India Act of 1919.
- **Highlights in 100 years of legislation :TN Legislative Assembly**
 - ✓ In its first session in April 1921, resolved to provide **voting rights to women**.
 - ✓ **Muthulakshmi Reddy**, the well-known medical practitioner and social activist, became the first woman member of the Council and, in no time, became the **Deputy President of the Council**.
 - ✓ **C. Subramaniam**, as Finance Minister, was the first to make a budget speech in Tamil in 1957-58.
 - ✓ "**Tamil Thai Vazhthu**" was rendered in July 1991 for the first time at the beginning of the Governor's address.
 - ✓ During the two-year rule of the DMK founder **C.N. Annadurai**, the Assembly, in July 1967, adopted a motion renaming **Madras State as Tamil Nadu**
 - ✓ Several landmark laws for the welfare of women, such as **Devadasi abolition, equal rights to women in property** and constitution of the **State Commission for Women**.
- **Key milestones- TN Assembly**
 - ✓ **January 1921-:** The Madras Legislative council, the biggest body of its kind in India, constituted with 127 members, including 98 elected representatives, and a fixed term of three years.
 - ✓ **April 1921:** Council adopts removal of **sex disqualification** on women for franchise.
 - ✓ **July 1937: Bi- Cameral Legislature** formed with the Legislative Assembly having 215 members and the Legislative council having 56.
 - ✓ **March 1952:** The **first Assembly after Independence** is constituted with 375 seats 243 single - member constituencies and 66 double- member constituencies.
 - ✓ **April 1957:** Subsequent to reorganisation of **states on linguistic lines**, the legislative Assembly strength went down to 205.
 - ✓ **April 20 to May 9, 1957:** The only occasion when the Assembly and the council met outside **Chennai- Aranmore palace, Udhagamandalam**.
 - ✓ **November 1986:** Legislative council Was abolished..
- **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam – TN Govt .**
 - ✓ '**Makkalai thedi maruthuvam**', an initiative to take healthcare services to the doorstep of the people, in **Samanapalli, Krishnagiri district**.

- ✓ This is the first-of-its-kind scheme in the country, which will include physiotherapy-related therapies, testing and providing medicines to the poor and for non-communicable diseases at their doorsteps.
 - ✓ The CM also inaugurated the scheme in Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem, Thanjavur, Trichy, Tirunelveli and Chennai districts through video-conferencing.
- **Tamil Nadu weavers - received more loans under the Mudra scheme than all other states put together in the last three years**
- ✓ This was announced by the Union textile minister **Piyush Goyal** in a statement made in Rajya Sabha on August 5
 - ✓ According to the Minister, 41,568 Tamil Nadu weavers were provided loans under the **Mudra scheme in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21.**
- **White paper on the state's finances, four days ahead of his first budget, at Secretariat in Chennai**
- ✓ The white paper highlighted the state's fall from a revenue surplus of Rs.1,760 crore in 2012-13 to a **deficit of Rs.61,320 crore** (or 3.16% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in 2020-21.
 - ✓ As per the white paper, Tamil Nadu's agricultural sector registered growth in the past 15 years, even though employment in the sector reduced by 10% – from 54% to 44% between 1981 and 2010.
- **R. Velraj New V.C of Anna University**
- ✓ Governor Banwarilal Purohit - appointed R Velraj as new **vice-chancellor** of Anna University.
- **Paperless budget after Himachal Pradesh and Odisha**
- ✓ This year, Tamil Nadu government presented a paperless budget after **Himachal Pradesh and Odisha.**
- **The Tamil Nadu tourism, culture and religious endowments department - announced that the birth anniversary of Rajendra Chola I will be celebrated as a government event.**
- **The state government - has appointed former IAS officer P W C Davidar -as Adviser (digital and simplified governance) to Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency.**
- **100 Days of Government of Tamilnadu-Achievements**
- ✓ Saving people from Corona pandemic
 - ✓ Rs.4,000 and 14 grocery items to 2.07 crore family rice cardholders.
 - ✓ Petrol price reduced by Rs. 3 per litre.
 - ✓ Aavin milk price reduced by Rs. 3 per litre.
 - ✓ Free bus travel for women, differently-abled and transgenders.
 - ✓ A Multi-Speciality Hospital at a cost of Rs.250 crore in the campus of King Institute, Chennai.
 - ✓ **"Kalaingar Memorial Library"** with modern facilities at a cost of Rs.70 crore in Madurai.
 - ✓ 49 Industrial Projects through **"Investors First Destination - Tamilnadu."**

- ✓ Rs. 28,508 crore investment.83,482 employment oppurtunities.
- ✓ **“Health at the Doorsteps Scheme” - First in the Country.**
- ✓ Appointment of Archagars from all castes.
- ✓ Poojas in **“Annai Thamizh” in Temples**
- ✓ **10.5% Special Reservation for Vanniars, Seermarabinar Tribes and other MBCs.**
- ✓ **“Separate Annual Budget for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare” - First in the State.**
- ✓ Fixed Deposit of Rs.5 lakh and Rs.3 lakh to Children who lost their parents due to Corona disease.
- ✓ Journalists announced as frontline workers. Rs.10 lakh compensation to the families of those who die of Covid-19.
- ✓ Financial allocation of Rs. 4,508.23 crore to Free Electricity Scheme.
- ✓ Re-introduction of **“Anna Marumalarchi” and “Namakku Naame” Schemes.**
- ✓ **Kalaigarin Anai thu Grama Orunginaintha Velaan Valarchi Thittam”** at a cost of Rs. 1,245.45 crore.
- ✓ Financial allocation of Rs. 1,149.79 crore for the **“Welfare of Fisherman.”**
- ✓ **“Kalaigar Urban Development Scheme”** at a cost of Rs. 1,000 crores.
- ✓ Rs. 2,750 crore loans to Women Self Help Groups waived. Rs. 20,000 crore loan assistance.
- ✓ **“Thagaisal Thamizhar Award”** constituted for eminent persons who contribute to Tamilnadu and Tamils.
- ✓ **“Economic Advisory Council”** with World renowned Economists.
- ✓ **“Singara Chennai 2.0”** to improve Chennai to the international standards

➤ **E - Paarvai**

- ✓ **Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency’s (TNeGA)** award-winning mobile app, **E-Paarvai** - is helping government hospitals identify people with cataracts.
- ✓ The **Artificial Intelligence-based** app named **‘E-Paarvai’** allows healthcare workers to identify cataracts on-the-spot with 91% accuracy.
- ✓ Untreated cataracts are one of the primary reasons for blindness in Tamil Nadu.

➤ **Veteran BJP leader and the party’s former Rajya Sabha MP L Ganesan** - has been appointed as the governor of Manipur

➤ **IN TAMIL NADU, Six airports in the state including Chennai, 491 km of national highway and the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR)** - are among the infrastructure assets identified by the Centre under the **National Monetisation Plan.**

- ✓ Solar power capacities of NLC India, gas pipelines in the Cauvery basin, some port assets **of VOC Port in Tuticorin**, railway stations of **Puducherry and Chennai**, **Hotel Ashok in Puducherry** are among the chosen assets to witness joint leasing by the Union government
- ✓ Trichy airport has been identified for monetisation through brownfield PPP models in FY22.
- ✓ This will be followed by **Madurai and Coimbatore airports** in FY23, and Chennai airport in FY24
- ✓ The national highway stretches identified for monetization over FY 2022-2025 in the State include listed below.

From	To	Distance
------	----	----------

Ulundurpet	Padalur	94 km
Ulundurpet	Tindivanam	73 km
Trichy	Padalur	38 km
Krishnagiri	Thopurghat	63 km
six laning of Hosur	Krishnagiri	60 km
Tambaram	Tindivanam	46.5 km
Trichy	Karaikudi including Trichy bypass	117 km

- **T.N. launches 100 cr. Urban Employment Scheme**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government will implement an urban employment scheme on the lines of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** at a cost of 100 crore to improve the livelihood of urban poor, Minister for **Municipal Administration, Urban and Water Supply K.N. Nehru** said in the Assembly on Tuesday.
 - ✓ The objective of the programme was to provide employment to urban poor, who had lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic as recommended by the committee headed by former **RBI Governor C Rangarajan**.
- **IIT Madras develops India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair 'NeoBolt'**
 - ✓ IIT Madras has developed India's first indigenous **motorized wheelchair** vehicle named 'NeoBolt', which can be used not only on roads but even on uneven terrains. It has a maximum speed of 25 kmph
- **Six municipalities in Tamil Nadu – Tambaram, Kancheepuram, Kumbakonam, Karur, Cuddalore and Sivakasi – would soon be upgraded into corporations** by merging adjoining areas with them.
- **On August, the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly - unanimously passed a bill to provide 7.5% horizontal quota to government school students for admissions to undergraduate professional courses**
 - ✓ The Bill was framed on the basis of the recommendations provided by retired Judge, Justice **D Murugesan committee**.
- **T.N. renames Development policy council**
 - ✓ **The Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday renamed the State Development Policy Council as the State Planning Commission.**
 - ✓ The government issued an order making the change with immediate effect.
 - ✓ In 2020, consequent to the abolition of plan, non-plan distinction, orders were issued replacing the State Planning Commission, which was constituted in 1971, with the **State Development Policy Council (SDPC)**.
 - ✓ The SDPC was tasked with preparing **short, medium and long-term plans and strategy documents, monitoring, evaluation and policy advocacy**, creating policy coherence and implementation of special programmes.
- **The Tamil Nadu government - has announced "Chief Minister Road Improvement Scheme" to widen the roads connecting taluk headquarters and the district headquarters in the next ten years.**

- **Singara Chennai 2.0**
 - ✓ Tamilnadu CM revives the '**Singara Chennai**' project. After the DMK won in the 1996 Local Body elections, M K Stalin, who was then the mayor of the capital city, rolled out a slew of projects to keep the city clear of garbage and spruce it up with road infrastructure like flyovers under the '**Singara Chennai**' umbrella.
- **Naatukozhi hatchery in Tirunelveli**
 - ✓ As there is an increasing demand for **naatukozhi** (country chicken) meat and eggs, the government will set up an exclusive naatukozhi hatchery unit in Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli,
 - ✓ **Minister for Fisheries, Fishermen Welfare and Animal Husbandry Anitha R. Radhakrishnan** said in the Assembly on Saturday.
 - ✓ **Siravidai chicken breed**, at a cost of 1.52 crore, will be set up in Madhavaram, Chennai.
- **Sugar-free milk kova unit in Salem**
 - ✓ Milk and Dairy Development Minister S.M. Nasar on Saturday announced a cattle fodder manufacturing unit in **Pudukudi, Thanjavur** district, at a cost of 25 crore.
- **Tamil Nadu - ranked fifth in fines collected through e-challans for traffic offences since September 2019, collecting Rs.140.9 crore as penalty**
- **On August 15, Chief Minister MK Stalin - hoisted the Tricolour for the first time at the ramparts of Fort St George on the occasion of 75th Independence day and received a guard of honour provided by Tamil Nadu police**
 - ✓ During his speech, the CM also recalled his father and former CM **Dr. Kalaingar M Karunanidhi's** letter to former PM Indira Gandhi that has started the tradition of CMs unfurling the tricolour on August 15 from the year 1974
 - ✓ Till 1973, state Governors used to unfurl the national flag on both Independence Day and Republic Day.
 - ✓ CM Stalin also unveiled a '**commemorative pillar**' to mark the **Diamond Jubilee (75th year) celebrations of India's Independence**
 - ✓ The Chief Minister announced that the monthly pension for freedom fighters would be increased **from Rs.17,000 to Rs.18,000 while their family pension would be hiked from Rs.8,500 to Rs.9,000**
 - ✓ He also said **the Mahatma Gandhi Museum in Madurai** will be upgraded at a cost of Rs.6 crore so as to attract even youngsters towards Gandhian principles
- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin - presented various awards on the occasion of the Independence Day on August 15, 2021**
 - ✓ **Kalpana Chawla award for Courage and Daring Enterprise was presented posthumously to Dr P Shanmugapriya (late) Medical Officer, Anuppanadi, Primary Health Centre, Madurai, which was accepted by her Husband.**
 - ✓ **APJ Abdul Kalam award** was presented to **Dr M Lakshmanan**, Professor of Eminence, Bharathidasan University
 - ✓ **Dr M Lakshmanan** is a specialist in the field of non-linear dynamics in Theoretical Physics and has been named in the top 2% of World Scientists as per California Stanford University' recent list.

- ✓ **Avvaiyar award** was given to **Dr D Santhi Duraisamy** who is in the business of pure spice and masala powder manufacturing in recognition of her service to the disabled and other social service activities
- ✓ **Best Third Gender award** was conferred on **Grace Banu**, Thoothukudi, for services rendered towards the welfare of society.
- ✓ **Thanjavur** received the **best municipal corporation award**
- ✓ **Udhagamandalam, Tiruchengode and Chinnamanur** received first, second and third prizes for the best municipalities in the State
- ✓ **Best Town Panchayat awards** were given to **Kallakudi (Trichy), Melapattampakkam (Cuddalore) and Kottaiyur (Sivagangai)** respectively
- ✓ **The Chief Minister's State Youth Award** was presented to **Aravind Jayabal, Chennai district, N Bazurudeen, Thiruvarur district, S Ranjith Kumar, Nilgiris district, G Maheswari, Dindigul district, J Amala Jenifer Jayarani, Cuddalore district and S Meena, Chennai district.**
- ✓ The Chief Minister's Best Practices Award for taking personal efforts was conferred to **K. Narayanasamy, Director, Government Corona Hospital, Guindy for restructuring the National Institute of Ageing building at the King Institute Campus into a dedicated hospital for Covid-19 patients.**
- **On August 14, the Chief Minister had presented the first Thagaisal Thamizhar Award to veteran Communist leader and centenarian, N. Sankaraiah alongwith a cheque of Rs. 10 lakh.**
- **The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board - has been adjudged the second best board in the country.**
- **The state government - has appointed former IAS officer P W C Davidar as adviser (digital and simplified governance) to Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency.**
- **Tamil Nadu - is ranked as the best performing state in the progress of Smart Cities Mission**
 - ✓ **Chennai and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, Indore, Bhopal and Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, and Surat and Rajkot in Gujarat figure among the best performers on different criteria**
 - ✓ **The Smart Cities Mission was launched in 2015 to redevelop 100 cities across the country**
- **9 New Supreme Court judges, including 3 women, takes oath**
 - ✓ **Nine new judges, including three women, have been administered the oath of office as judges of the Supreme Court by Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana**
 - ✓ **Justice Vikram Nath**
 - ✓ **Justice BV Nagarathna**
 - ✓ **Justice PS Narasimha:**
 - ✓ **Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka**
 - ✓ **Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari**
 - ✓ **Justice Hima Kohli**
 - ✓ **Justice CT Ravikumar**
 - ✓ **Justice MM Sundresh**
 - ✓ **Justice Bela M Trivedi**

STATE

- **Nagaland and Assam Government - has signed an agreement for withdrawal of forces with a view to de-escalate tension along the Assam-Nagaland border**
 - ✓ The agreement was signed by the **Chief Secretary of Nagaland J Alam** and Assam **Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua** on July 31 in Dimapur in the presence of Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton and Assam Education Minister Ranaj Pegu.
- **Meghalaya Youth Policy - 2021**
 - ✓ The Meghalaya state cabinet, held under the chairmanship of chief **minister Conrad K Sangma** - approved the Meghalaya Youth Policy, 2021 recently
 - ✓ It seeks to create pathways for Meghalaya's youth in achieving their fullest potential and becoming engaged, skilled, creative, responsible and empowered members
 - ✓ The policy was drafted by the sports and youth affairs department of the state government.
- **India's first earthquake warning system - is ready for launch in Uttarakhand on August**
 - ✓ A new app, the **Uttarakhand Bhookamp** Alert app, has been developed by the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) and the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee
 - ✓ Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami will launch the Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert app.
- **Govt introduces "Bharat series (BH-series)" registration**
 - ✓ Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has introduced a new registration mark for new vehicles i.e. "**Bharat series (BH-series)**". The vehicles bearing the BH-series mark will not have to require the assignment of a new registration mark when the owner of the vehicle shifts from one State to another
- **Karnataka has become the first state in the country to issue the order with regard to the implementation of the National Education Policy-2020.**
- **Kaziranga National Park (KNP)** in Assam has become the first national park in India to be equipped with satellite phones.
- The **Assam** government has decided to rename **Rajiv Gandhi National Park** as **Orang National Park**

NATIONAL

- **e- RUPI - Digital Payment Purpose**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched the e-Rupi mode of digital payment system on August 2 via video conferencing.
 - ✓ e-Rupi is a digital payments platform which was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority.

- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy code**
 - ✓ The Rajya Sabha - passed **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2021**, on August 3, 2021 after a brief discussion during the ongoing monsoon session.

- **BRO (Border Road organization)- World Highest Road**
 - ✓ The Border Roads Organisation - has constructed the world's highest road in eastern Ladakh at an altitude of 19,300 feet.
 - ✓ The world's highest motorable road at **Umlingla Pass** is constructed at an altitude of 19,300 ft, bettering previous record of a road near volcano Uturuncu in Bolivia at 18,953 ft
 - ✓ The 52-km long tarmac road through Umlingla Pass connects the important towns in Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh.

- **Lok Sabha passes Tribunals Reforms Bill**
 - ✓ **Tribunal Reforms Bill, 2021** seeks to replace Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021.
 - ✓ The Bill was introduced by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** on August 1, 2021.
 - ✓ The Bill provides for abolition of tribunals or authorities under several Acts by amending **Cinematograph Act of 1952, Copyrights Act of 1957, Customs Act of 1962, Patents Act of 1970, Airport Authority of India Act of 1994** as well as **Trade Marks Act of 1999**.
 - ✓ The Bill will also abolish the tribunals under **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act of 2001, and Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act of 2002**.
 - ✓ It also provides for uniform terms and conditions of service for chairperson and members of certain tribunals.

- **Lok Sabha - passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021, for setting up a central university in the name of 'Sindhu Central University' in Ladak**

- **Constitution Amendment Bill** Rajya Sabha - passed three bills –
 - ✓ 1. the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribe) Order (Amendment) Bill**,
 - ✓ 2. the **Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill** and
 - ✓ 3. the **Essential Defence Services Bill**.

- **PMG DHISHA(pradhan mantri grameen digital saksharata abhiyan)**

- ✓ It is a government initiative launched with an objective to impart digital literacy among the people residing in rural areas
 - ✓ Under the **PMGDISHA** scheme, people in the rural area will be trained to operate a computer, tablet, smartphones, etc.
 - ✓ They will be provided training on how to access the Internet, government services, undertake digital payment, compose e-mails, etc.
 - ✓ The marginalised sections of society like Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST), Minorities, Below Poverty Line (BPL), differently-abled will be covered exclusively under the scheme.
 - ✓ Illiterate people between the age group 14-60 years, nominated from every eligible rural household, are qualified to be included the scheme.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - to launch Ujjwala 2.0 that provides free cooking gas connections to poor families through domestic LPG cylinder connections at Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh on August**
- **Lok Sabha - passed the 127th The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021** that seeks to restore the power of states to identify backward castes.
- **79 years of "Quit India Movement"**
- ✓ Union Minister of Culture, Tourism, and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) inaugurated an exhibition on August 8, 2021 to mark 79th anniversary of the 'Quit India Movement' at National Archives of India in New Delhi.
- **PM - DAKSH**
- ✓ The 'Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana' is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment from the year 2020-21.
 - ✓ Now, any person can get all the information related to skill development training in one place by visiting the 'PM-DAKSH' portal.
- **PM - e Vidya**
- ✓ The Minister mentioned **about PM eVidya programme** launched with a mix of online, television and radio modes through various initiatives **SWAYAM, DIKSHA, SWAYAM PRABHA etc**
- **PM announced Rs 1,625 crore for women SHGs**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with members of women self-help groups (SHGs) under the "Aatmanirbhar Narihalti se Samvad" event on August 12, 2021 across the country and announced to release capitalisation support funds of Rs 1,625 crore.
 - ✓ Highlights Capitalisation support fund will benefit over 4 lakh SHGs.
- **National Vehicle Scrappage Policy launched**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Vehicle Scrappage Policy on August

- ✓ The **National Vehicle Scrappage Policy** is also dubbed as “voluntary vehicle-fleet modernisation programme”.
 - ✓ This programme aims to modernise India’s “**vehicular population**”.
 - ✓ Under the policy, vehicles will be scientifically tested through authorised and automated centres before it is finally scrapped.
- **Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021**
 - ✓ Environment Ministry notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 on August 13, 2021.
 - ✓ These plastic products comprise of **ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, candy sticks, plastic flags, ice-cream sticks, thermocol for decoration, cups plates, cups, glasses as well as cutlery like knives, spoons, forks, trays, straws, wrapping or packing films, invitation cards and cigarette packets as well as PVC banners of less than 100 microns.**
 - **“Gati Sakthi” - National Infrastructure plan.**
 - ✓ India to launch a 100 trillion rupee (\$1.35 trillion) national infrastructure plan called “**Gati Shakti**” that will help boost productivity of industries, generate jobs and boost the economy.
 - **New Cooperative Ministry created after the Cabinet reshuffle and assured small farmers that the government was working for their welfare.**
 - **National Hydrogen Mission**
 - ✓ The launch of **the National Hydrogen Mission** was announced by PM Modi. The aim is to make India a global hub for the production and export of green hydrogen.
 - ✓ The proposal for the National Hydrogen Mission was made in the Budget 2021 to launch NHM that would enable the generation of hydrogen “**from green power sources**”.
 - ✓ Hydrogen fuel is a **zero-emission fuel burned with oxygen**. It can be used in fuel cells or internal combustion engines. It is also used as a fuel for spacecraft propulsion.
 - **New National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)- in 2022**
 - ✓ The new standard will incorporate more pollutants, including ultra-fine particulate matter of less than PM 2.5.
 - **Four more wetlands from India - have been recognised as Ramsar site of international importance**
 - ✓ The **Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary**, a human-made freshwater wetland and the largest one in Haryana, supports more than 10 globally threatened species
 - ✓ The **Sultanpur National Park** from Haryana supports more than 220 species of resident, winter migratory and local migratory waterbirds, along with supporting more than 10 globally threatened and critically endangered birds
 - ✓ The **Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary** from Gujarat lies on the Central Asian Flyway and supports more than 320 bird species
 - ✓ The **Wadhvana Wetland** is important as it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds, including over 80 species that migrate on the Central Asian Flyway.

- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs - has recently launched 'SonChiraiya', a single brand and logo to promote and market the products made by urban Self-Help Groups (SHG)**
- **NTPC commissions India's largest floating solar PV project**
 - ✓ The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited on August 21, 2021, commissioned India's largest floating solar PV project of 25MW on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ The 2000 MW coal-based **Simhadri thermal station** is the first power project that implemented an open sea intake from the Bay of Bengal.
 - ✓ Generate electricity from more than 1 lakh solar PV modules that will aid in lighting up approximately 7,000 households.
- **Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman - launched a four-year road map for a Rs.6-lakh-crore asset monetisation plan.**
 - ✓ **The National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** lists out the government's infrastructure assets to be sold over the next four years.
- **The National Asset Monetisation Pipeline -NITI Aayog**
 - ✓ The assets include roads and highways, pipelines, power transmission lines, telecom towers, railways station re-development, private trains, tracks, goods sheds, dedicated freight corridor, **15 railways stadiums, 25 airports, 31 projects in nine major ports, 160 projects in coal mining, 761 mineral mining blocks, two national stadia, re-development of colonies** and hospitality assets
 - ✓ There are over 20 asset classes across 12 ministries, which have been identified for the pipeline and these are **brownfield de-risked assets**, which will be offered for private investment.
 - ✓ **Railway is the second biggest sector, after road, identified in the ambitious national monetisation plan**
 - ✓ A total of **400 stations, 90 passenger trains, railway stadiums and colonies**, and the famed **Konkan and hill railways** are among the assets identified by the government for monetisation
 - ✓ Railway assets would contribute 26% of the Rs 6 lakh crore National **Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)**.
 - ✓ The government has announced plans to monetise the iconic **Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) Stadium** in the national capital along with another national stadium and two regional centres.
 - ✓ States, which raise money through disinvestment of state PSUs or give up control, will be given an equal amount by the Centre.
 - ✓ The states will be incentivised to monetise public sector assets, with 30 to 100% interest-free loan assistance, depending on the monetisation mode.
- **Operation Devi Shakti**
 - ✓ Operation Devi Shakti name has been given by **India to its operation of evacuating its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan.**
 - ✓ This announcement was made after 78 people, including 25 Indian nationals, were brought to India from **Dushanbe (Tajikistan)** in a special Air India flight.
 - ✓ They were brought out of Taliban-controlled Kabul to Dushanbe in aircraft of Indian Air Force (IAF).

- **e-Sharm Portal: Centre to launch National Database for Unorganised Workers on August**
 - ✓ Union Labour Ministry will launch e-Sharm Portal-National Database for Unorganised Workers on August.
 - ✓ The portal will be launched for the overall welfare of crores of unorganized workers of the country after seven decades of independence.
- **On August, Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman - announced changes in the pension scheme for state-run bank employees**
 - ✓ The pension payout to bank staff was hiked by 30% of last drawn salary, as per the new announcements.
- **Madhya Pradesh becomes 2nd state to implement National Education Policy 2020**
 - ✓ Madhya Pradesh on August 26, 2021, became the 2nd state after Karnataka to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
 - ✓ **CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan** announced the implementation of the Policy in the presence of Governor Mangubhai Patel.
 - ✓ **The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** was launched by the Centre on July 29, 2020
- **Union Minister for AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal - to launch the Y-Break App on September 1, 2021, from Vigyan Bhawan to commemorate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.**
- **PFRDA increases the entry age in National Pension System (NPS) to 70 years**
 - ✓ **The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has increased the entry age for the National Pension System (NPS) from 65 years to 70 years.
- **India's nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,480 Mega Watts by 2031 from the current 6,780 MegaWatts.**
- **There are presently 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6780 MW in operation and one reactor, KAPP-3 (700 MW) has been connected to the grid on January**
- **Indian Railways** has launched an integrated one-stop solution "Rail Madad" in which the national transporter has merged a number of existing helplines that were used for various purposes into one.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a Rs 11,000 crore **National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)** to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils, including palm oil.
- UN Women have joined hands to launch the **Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Innovation Challenge 2021..**
- The initiative will promote 'Nari Sashaktikaran', and empower women to help them achieve their full potential.

- India's cleanest city, Indore in Madhya Pradesh, has achieved another feat of being declared as the country's first 'water plus' certified city, under the **Swachh Survekshan 2021**.
- The Government of India has given a three-year extension to **Rekha Sharma** as Chairperson of the **National Commission for Women (NCW)**.
- **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** has inducted its first women officers in combat. On 8th August, 2021



COURT VERDICT

- In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court - has issued an interim order allowing women to take the National Defence Academy (NDA) exam scheduled on September 5, 2021
- The Supreme Court - held that the 'creamy layer' among the backward communities has to be decided on the basis of a mix of social, economic and other relevant factors and not the economic criteria alone.
- The Madras high court - disallowed 10% quota for economically weaker sections (EWS) among forward castes in MBBS admissions under All India Quota (AIQ)

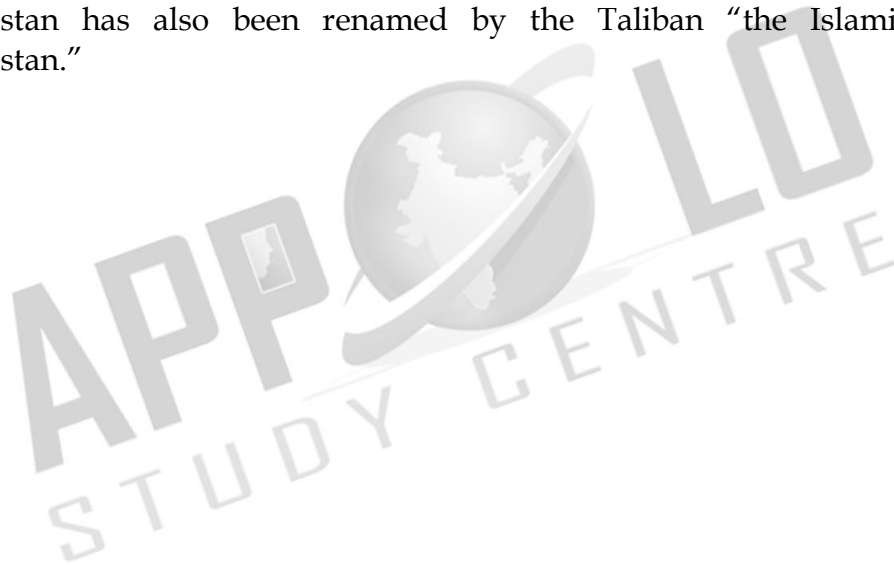


INTERNATIONAL

- World's first ever 3D-printed steel bridge - was opened for public use in Amsterdam, the Netherland.

South Africa has become the first country in the world to grant patent for an invention made by Artificial intelligence (AI). The country has granted a patent to a food container system which is based on Fractal Geometry and was invented by an AI system known as DABUS (Device for Autonomous Bootstrapping of Unified Sentience). Stephen Thaler has created DABUS a

- **Taliban Commander Abdul Ghani Baradar is the new President of Afghanistan**
 - ✓ Abdul Ghani Baradar, Taliban Commander, has been announced as the new President of Taliban acquired Afghanistan.
 - ✓ The former President Ashraf Ghani had fled to Tajikistan as Taliban fighters took control of the Capital City Kabul and the palace.
 - ✓ Afghanistan has also been renamed by the Taliban "the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan."



INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Ismail Sabri Yaakob becomes Malaysia's new Prime Minister**
- **India - has launched a new technology platform named 'UNITE Aware' in collaboration with the United Nations to help protect UN peacekeepers**
 - ✓ UNITE Aware is a situational awareness software programme that will utilise modern surveillance technology for real time threat assessments to peacekeepers
 - ✓ It is aimed at ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers who are operating in an increasingly complex and risky environments across the world.
- **India, Russia sign deal to procure 70,000 AK-203 Assault Rifles**
 - ✓ India and Russia on August 19, 2021 signed a deal for the immediate procurement of 70,000 AK-200 series assault rifles.
 - ✓ AK-203 is the latest version of the AK-47 rifle. These rifles will replace the 5.56×45mm **Indian Small Arms System (INSAS)** rifles that are currently being used by the Indian Army, Navy and the Air Force besides other security forces.
- **India & Maldives inks pact on mega Greater Male Connectivity Project**
 - ✓ The Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP) is the largest-ever civilian infrastructure project in Maldives.
 - ✓ The USD 400 million LoC will be provided by Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank).
 - ✓ The project will be developed by Indian construction and engineering firm, AFCONS, based in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - ✓ The Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) comprise of 6.74 km long bridge and causeway link that will connect the national capital Male with three neighbouring islands namely. **Villingili, Gulhifahu and Thilafushi**

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **G - 20 Culture Minister Meeting**
 - ✓ Minister of State for Culture, **Meenakashi Lekhi** - participated in the G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting on 30 July, 2021 held in Rome, Italy through video conference.
- The Working Group of Agriculture from **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS)** - met virtually recently for talks
- **First Indian PM to preside over a meeting of the UNSC**
 - ✓ India took over from France to assume **the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the month of August 2021.**
 - ✓ This is the first presidency for India during its 2021-22 tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the **first Indian PM to preside over a meeting of the UNSC.**

- The First-ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment was held at Santa Margherita Ligure, -Italy.
- Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry have launched Climate Action and Finance Mobilisation Dialogue under India-US Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership. This partnership will provide both countries an opportunity to renew collaborations on climate change while addressing the financing aspects.



DEFENCE

- **INS Vikrant**
 - ✓ The Indian Navy - has announced that India's first indigenously aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant - India's largest warship - is set to begin sea trials on August 4 off the coast of Kochi.

- **INS Talwar - has recently participated in the annual maritime exercise 'Cutlass Express 2021' in Mombassa, Kenya**

- **Prakriti Diksha**
 - ✓ Prakriti and Diksha became the first women officers to be deployed in combatised roles by the mountain warfare force.

- **Nirbhay land Cruise Missile**
 - ✓ Another flight-test of the indigenous 'Nirbhay' land-attack cruise missile - was unsuccessful on August 11 due to a technical snag.

- **India and Russia - signed a deal for the immediate procurement of 70,000 latest AK series of assault rifles for Indian Army under the provisions of emergency procurement.**

- **Ordnance Factory of Tiruchirappalli (OFT) - has launched a new variant of the indigenous Trichy Assault Rifle (TAR) to commemorate the 75 years of Indian independence**

- **The Ministry of Defence - signed a Rs.1,350 crore contract with Mahindra Defence Systems Limited (MDS) to manufacture 14 integrated anti-submarine warfare defence suites (IADS) for front-line warships of the Navy.**

- **India and Germany conducted naval exercise in Gulf of Aden**

ECONOMICS

- **The Reserve Bank of India - announced the cancellation of license of Madgaum Urban Cooperative Bank Co., Ltd., located in Margao, Goa with effect.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India has raised the limit for collateral-free loans to Self-Help Groups (SHG) under the DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission) from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 Lakhs.**
 - ✓ **The DAY-NRLM is the flagship program of Govt. of India for promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutions for the poor, particularly women, and enabling these institutions to access a range of financial services and livelihoods.**
- **The government has set the loans disbursement target under the PM Mudra Yojana (PMMY) at Rs 3 trillion for 2021-22 (FY22). This target is lower than the previous year. For FY21, the target was set at Rs 3.21 trillion.**
- **The 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.**

ECONOMICS - TAMIL NADU

BUDGET

- **Tamil Nadu Finance Minister P.T.R. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan - presented the government's first paperless budget for the year 2021-22 in Assembly on August**
 - ✓ **Tablet computers** have been given to all the legislators in the assembly to follow the presentation.
 - ✓ As per the revised budget estimates, the **revenue deficit for 2021-22** is expected to go up to **Rs.58,692.68 crore** from the interim budget estimates of **Rs.41,417.30 crore**
 - ✓ The total **revenue receipt estimates range from Rs.2,18,991.96 crore** in the Interim Budget Estimates to **Rs.2,02,495.89 crore** in the Revised Budget Estimates 2021-22
 - ✓ The **State's Own Tax Revenue estimates** in the Revised Budget Estimates 2021-22 are expected to be **Rs.1,26,644.15 crore**, as against the Interim Budget Estimates of **Rs.1,35,641.78 crore**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu presently bears an overall **debt burden of Rs 5,70,189 crore and public debt of Rs.2,63,976 per family**, as per the White Paper released by the finance minister on August 9
 - ✓ Power body TANGEDCO was losing **Rs 2.60** for every unit consumed and the transport sector was bleeding **Rs 59.15** for every kilometre run, as per the White Paper
 - ✓ The most significant finding in the White Paper is the deterioration of the **tax-GSDP ratio of the state from 8.48%** in 2006-07 to just **5.46%** in 2020-21

- ✓ Tamil Nadu has already **borrowed Rs.36,000 crore** so far in 2021-22, and is the top borrower among the States.

Highlights of the Budget

- ✓ Launch of a **Green Tamil Nadu Mission** to increase the total areas under forest and tree cover to **33% of the land areas in the state.**
- ✓ Launch of **Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission** to focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation activities at a budget of Rs.500 crore.
- ✓ World Bank-funded **Chennai City Partnership** will be implemented over a period of nine years (2021-2030) with a total estimated budget of \$1.43 billion for development **of institutions, infrastructure and systems.**
- ✓ A Rs 57 crore integrated stormwater drain network in Kosasthalaiyar Basin backed by the **Asian Development Bank.**
- ✓ **India's first integrated air quality** monitoring system to be set up under TN Pollution Control board
- ✓ To reduce travel time, Tamil Nadu plans to expand 8,900km of state highways under a **new scheme** named '**Chief Minister's Road Development Programme**'.
- ✓ The State government will establish a **Directorate of Textiles** to give a fillip to the sector in the State.
- ✓ Waiver of loans to the tune of Rs.2,756 crore due from self-help groups to the **co-operative credit societies.**
- ✓ Petrol price to become cheaper in the state by Rs.3 per litre, causing a loss of Rs. 1,160 crore to the government's exchequer.
- ✓ **Chief Minister's Insurance Scheme** will be implemented from this year at a budget of Rs.1,046 cror
- ✓ Announcement of a **subsidy of Rs. 703 crore** for free bus travel for women

➤ INFRASTRUCURAL DEVLOPMENT

- ✓ **Singara Chennai 2.0**, chief minister M K Stalin's dream project, got a Rs. 500 crore boost
- ✓ **Chennai Metro Rail Phase 2** will be completed by 2025 and announcement of three new flyovers for Chennai city at a budget of Rs. 500 crore and fully financed by loans from TN Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TUFIDCO).
- ✓ **A fintech city will come up in Chennai**, which will be developed in two phases at Nandambakkam and Kavanur
- ✓ **The desalination plant at Perur on East Coast Road (ECR)**, with a capacity to generate 400 million litres a day (MLD) of drinking water, will be expeditiously implemented with financial assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- ✓ Allocation of Rs. 1,725 crore has been allocated for the **MGR lunch scheme for the year 2021-22.**
- ✓ Allocation of Rs 32,599 crore towards school education, which is Rs 1,582 crore lesser than the last year.
- ✓ Allocation of Rs 5,369 crore to higher education, which is Rs 316 crore more than the last year.
- ✓ State highways department got a **bumper allocation of Rs 17,899 crore.**

- ✓ **Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme, Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor, and Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Project at Rs.14,282 crore**
- ✓ **A TN Siddha University**, a proposal mooted by Kalaignar, will be established with an initial allocation of Rs 2 crore

➤ **POWER SECTOR**

- ✓ Announcement of an installed capacity target of 17,970 megawatts over the next decade to offset the 2,500 megawatt power purchase that the state has made so far.
- ✓ While the state's average power demand is about 15,000MW, the installed capacity of Tangedco's own existing thermal power plants is only 4,320MW

➤ **Rural housing and development**

- ✓ Allocation of Rs 3,954 crore towards building more homes in the effort to make Tamil Nadu a "hutless state" over the next decade that will house nearly 8 lakh homeless individuals
- ✓ Allocation of Rs. 3,800 crore **for rural housing.**
- ✓ Allocation of over Rs 8,000 crore to the implementation of food subsidies and Rs 6,600 crore to irrigation-related infrastructure.
- ✓ Allocation of Rs. 3954.44 crore **to Tamil Nadu slum clearance board**
- ✓ Rs. 405 crore has been allotted for **the fire service department.**
- ✓ The government will revitalise the **Common Effluent Treatment Plants** and set up new ones in Erode and Namakkal clusters.

✓ **MSME-TN policy**

- ✓ A committee chaired by Dr.N.Sundaradevan, I.A.S. (Retd) has been established to study the financial, infrastructural and **other issues faced by MSMEs in Tamil Nadu and suggest measures to enable them to thrive.**
- ✓ Government will launch a **State Level Credit Guarantee Scheme** to enable more MSMEs, particularly micro enterprises to access credit

- ✓ **Tidel parks** will now be established in Villupuram, Vellore, Chidambaram, Tiruppur and Thoothukudi too.

- ✓ **New Sipcot** (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu) complexes will be established in **Thiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri, Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Sivagangai, Villupuram, Namakkal, Theni and Nagapattinam to be spread across 4,000 acres**

- ✓ An industrial park will be established in **Thoothukudi** district with investment of Rs 1,000 crore in an area of 1100 acre

- ✓ An **e-vehicle park to be set up at Maanallur in Tiruvallur**, a medical devices park at **Oragadam**, a leather products park at Panapakkam in Ranipet, a dedicated furniture park in Tuticorin and three food parks at Manapparai, Theni and Tindivanam

- ✓ Setting up of **five mega clusters in pharmaceuticals**, petrochemicals, precision manufacturing, defence and aerospace, and smart mobility sectors

- ✓ A defence industrial park is also planned in Coimbatore on about 500 acres with an investment of Rs.3,000 crore

- ✓ 15 skill development centres will be set up in ITIs and a new skill centre will come up in partnership with NLC India at Neyveli.

➤ **WELFARE SCHEME**

- ✓ **Kalaignar's 'Namaku Naame'** public participation scheme to expand green cover will be implemented again at a cost of Rs 100 crore. Launched in 1997-98 by CM Karunanidhi, the scheme was renamed twice when J Jayalalithaa was voted to power in 2001 and 2011, while the original name was restored by Kalaignar in 2006
- ✓ Relaunch of '**Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam**' with an outlay of Rs.1,200 crore
- ✓ '**Kalaignar M Karunanidhi Semmozhi Tamizh** award' will be given along with Rs 10 lakh cash prize every year in Central Classic Tamil institute. The award is set to be awarded every year on June 3. The award was last presented in 2010. A budget of Rs. 300 crore allotted for the award
- ✓ The government would revive the **Central Institute of Classical Tamil in Chennai**

➤ **DRINKING WATER**

- ✓ Piped drinking water will be given to each household in Chennai - 135 litres of water per person per day in city corporations, **90 litres of water per person per day in municipalities and 70 litres of water** per person per day in town panchayats to be ensured
- ✓ To supply at least 55 litres per capita per day (LPCD) of good quality drinking water to all households in the state by March 2024 and will implement **the Jal Jeevan Mission at Rs.2,000 crore for 2021-22**. As per government data, 83.92 lakh state households currently do not have water supply connections
- ✓ The Budget promises drinking water to 1.27 crore households in rural areas and to make the state becomes accident free in 10 years.
- ✓ Rs 500 crore has been allotted to ensure accident free Tamil Nadu

➤ **HEALTH SECTOR**

- ✓ The state increased the allotment for the health sector by nearly 20% from Rs.15,863.4 in 2020-21 to Rs.18,933.2 in the revised Budget for 2021-22
- ✓ An outlay of Rs.257.2 crore has been set aside for '**Makklai Thedi Maruthuvam**'. Under this programme, healthcare workers will screen people for diabetes and hypertension, schedule doctor visits, give them drugs at their doorsteps and offer home dialysis, palliative care and physiotherapy.

➤ **FISHERIES**

- ✓ Rs 1149.79 crore allotted for fisheries department, while Rs 6.25 crore allocated for establishing six fishing harbours in the state

➤ **ARCHEOLOGY- EXCAVATION**

- ✓ A museum to be established near the archaeology site at **Keezhadi**.
- ✓ Announcement of **Rs. 5 crore** in the budget for excavations in the State, which is the highest amount allotted for the purpose among all states in the country
- ✓ The areas in **Keezhadi, Sivakalai and Kodumanal** where excavations have been carried out to be declared as protected archaeological sites
- ✓ The first stage of deep-sea excavation is to be undertaken in areas where Sangam age harbours of **Korkai and Azhagankulam** were located in coordination with the National Institute of Oceanography, National Institute of Ocean Technology and Indian Maritime University.

➤ **"SMART" governance.**

- ✓ Launch of “**SMART (Swift, Measurable, Accessible, Responsive and Transparent) governance**” by deploying information and communication technology across all government departments
- An effective **Samadhan scheme** will be launched to clear the pending dues of Rs.28,000 crore under Tamil Nadu value added tax and other legacy legislations.
- **SPORTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.**
 - ✓ Establishing mini sports stadia at a cost of Rs.3 crore each in all assembly constituencies that currently don't have sports facilities.
 - ✓ 12 sportspersons from the state who participated in the Tokyo Olympics were given a cash award of Rs.5 lakh each and two women among them were provided government jobs
 - ✓ The overall allocation for youth welfare and sports development is Rs.225.6 crore
 - ✓ Master plans to be developed for 539 temples to conserve their rich heritage and enhance the devotees' experience.

Agriculture Budget

- **For the first time in the history of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, an exclusive budget for agriculture - was presented by the Tamil Nadu Minister for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare MRK Pannerselvam on August 14 for the year 2021-22**
 - ✓ A total of **Rs.34,220.65 crore** has been allocated in the budget for agriculture and allied sectors, which include Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Revenue, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Agricultural engineering, Rural development and Panchayat Raj
 - ✓ In the previous budget, then ruling AIADMK government had allocated Rs 11,894.48 for these sectors.
 - ✓ 42% of Tamil Nadu's workers are farmers and, in rural areas, more than 58% of households depend on agriculture for a livelihood

Highlights of the state's first ever Agriculture budget

- ✓ The government is planning to implement a project called '**Kalaigarnar's Anaithu Grama Oruginaintha Velan Valarchi Thittam**' in the span of next five years to ensure all the **12,524 village panchayats** of Tamil Nadu attain overall agricultural development and self-sufficiency - The scheme is set to be implemented in **2,500 village panchayats** this year at a cost of Rs 250 crore.
- ✓ The government will convert **11.75 lakh hectares of fallow lands into farmland in the next 10 years to increase the area of cultivation from 60 to 75%.**
- ✓ A separate wing for **organic farming will be created under the Agriculture Department.**
- ✓ An **Integrated Farming System** will be implemented during this year to benefit the 13,300 farmer families in the state at an expense of Rs. 59.85 crore that will be met with central and state government funds.
- ✓ **Nammazhavar Organic Farming Research Centre** will be set up at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore at an expense of Rs 3 crore.
- ✓ A **16 point strategy** is proposed to be adopted for the growth of farm sector which includes value addition for agri products, ensuring reasonable prices for **millets, fruits, and other agri products** and encouraging youth to be agri-entrepreneurs.

- ✓ An **agro-industrial corridor** from **Trichy to Nagapattinam** in the Cauvery delta region, and a drumstick export zone in the districts of **Theni, Dindigul, Karur, Tuticorin, Ariyalur, Tirupur and Madurai** are the other highlights.
 - ✓ The government will increase the area of cultivation and set up a special export facilitation centre for drumstick exports in Madurai for Rs. 1 crore
 - ✓ Reflecting the DMK's focus on Tamil culture and heritage, the Budget made **permission from collectors mandatory for cutting down palmyra trees.**
 - ✓ Besides, **76 lakh palmyra seednuts** and **one lakh palmyra seedlings** will be distributed to farmers with full subsidy in 30 districts this year.
 - ✓ Also, measures will be taken to **sell palm jaggery at PDS shops.**
 - ✓ The purchase price of sugarcane will be increased from Rs 2,750 to Rs 2,900 per tone
 - ✓ The **Union-State Fund for Youth Entrepreneurship** will be implemented at a budget of Rs. 2.62 crore.
 - ✓ **Coconut Value Added Center for Delta Coconut Farmers will be set up at Thanjavur**
- **Uzhavar sandhais (farmers' market),**
- ✓ The brainchild of the late chief minister **Kalaignar M Karunanidhi**, will get a makeover, at a cost of Rs 12.50 crore.
 - ✓ As many as 10 new **Uzhavar Santhais** will be set up in town panchayats and other urban areas of **Cuddalore, Dindigul, Erode, Karur, Pudukkottai, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Vellore and Kallakurichi** districts at a cost of Rs. 6 crore.
 - ✓ To motivate the educated youth to take up agriculture to next level in their native places, a scheme of '**Rural Youth Agricultural Skill Development Mission**' will be rolled out -
 - ✓ **5000 solar powered pump sets** with a capacity of upto 10HP will be installed in the current year at 70% subsidy at an outlay of Rs.114.68 crore with state and Union government funding.
 - ✓ Subsidy will be **provided to improve soil fertility in 2000 villages** where vegetable cultivation is less
 - ✓ It is proposed to establish **modern cold storages** in two locations, **Oddanchattiram and Panruti**, based on the requests received from the farmers
 - ✓ About **three lakh rainfed farmers will get Rs.146.64 crore under the CM's dry land development mission.**
 - ✓ Over 1,100 farmer producer groups will also get a corpus fund of Rs.5 lakh each under collective farming scheme by coordinating 1.10 lakh farmers
 - ✓ A '**Modern Agricultural Marketing Centre**' will be set up at **Kolathur** in Chennai Corporation at a cost of Rs 1 crore to make the farm fresh vegetables available in Chennai.
 - ✓ On a pilot basis, **30 mobile vegetable shops** will be operated in five corporations, viz, Chennai, Trichy, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruppur
 - ✓ The government will set up an integrated rural agricultural market complex at Edapally village situated on the borders of Coonoor and Kothagiri at Rs 2 crore
 - ✓ The government will construct 28 drying yards in **Cuddalore, Villupuram, Salem, Namakkal, Krishnagiri, Erode, Trichy, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Theni, Dindigul, Tiruppur and Kanniyakumari** Districts at a cost of Rs. 3.5 crore

- ✓ The government has also proposed a scheme for the establishment of an **Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre** for promoting export trade by farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) at Guindy in Chennai at a cost of Rs 1 crore.
- ✓ The government has also allocated Rs 4508.23 crore to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to provide **free electricity for agriculture**, while Rs 573.24 crore has been allocated to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
- ✓ The government is planning to provide **a kit of agricultural equipment to half lakh farmers, which includes shovels, weeders, iron pots, crowbars and sickles which are required to undertake daily farming activities** at an outlay of Rs.15 crore.
- ✓ A separate **museum for agriculture will be set up in Chennai** at a cost of Rs. 2 crore to showcase the glory of agriculture to the younger generation.
- ✓ The best performing farmers who fetch maximum production by **adopting traditional organic farming practices** and the best performing exporters who excel in **agro exports will** also be rewarded with prizes.
- ✓ A high level committee for agriculture will be constituted at state level under the **chairmanship of Chief Secretary** to review farming related schemes and to suggest solutions for the problems faced by farmers.
- ✓ **Rs. 2,327 crore has been allocated for the crop insurance scheme for the year 2021-2022.**
- ✓ To encourage production of **fresh and residue-free vegetables** at households for daily needs and to enable children to learn about plants, two lakh seed kits consisting of **12 types of vegetable seeds will be distributed at subsidised rates in rural areas**
- ✓ A **new horticulture park will** be set up at **Vadalur** at the expense of Rs 1 crore.
- ✓ The government will take steps to get **GI tag for traditional unique produces such as Kolli Hills-Pepper, Panrutti-Jack and Ponni rice**
- ✓ Food Processing Incubation Centres will be launched in five locations including Nagapattinam for fish-based products, Coimbatore for coconut, **Trichy for banana, Erode for turmeric and Virudhunagar for millets**
- ✓ The government will focus on cultivation of horticultural crops such as greens and chillies in **Tiruvallur district, cashew and jackfruit in Cuddalore, pepper and onion in Namakkal and acid lime and amla in Tenkasi.**
- ✓ A new horticulture college will be set up at **Jeenur near Krishnagiri district while a Turmeric Research Centre will be established at Bavanisagar near Erode** - Tamil Nadu ranks fifth in the country for turmeric production.
- ✓ The government will set up **agricultural zonal committees** to support farmers based on water resources, fertility of soil and climatic conditions consisting of officials from **departments of agriculture, horticulture, agricultural engineering, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, water resources department, pollution control board, forest department, progressive farmers and environmental experts.**

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

- The Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu has released a book 'Accelerating India: ✓ 7 Years of Modi Government' at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas.
 - ✓ The book commemorates the achievement and evaluation of two elected terms of PM Modi as the Head of Parliamentary
- CDS General Bipin Rawat was presented a book "OPERATION KHUKRI"
 - ✓ Authored by Major General Rajpal Punia & Ms Damini Punia. The book highlights the Indian Army's successful rescue mission in Sierra Leone as part of the United Nations.

RANKINGS

- Kerala - has the maximum proportion (16.5%) of elderly people in its population, as per 2021 data
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu (13.6%),
 - ✓ Himachal Pradesh (13.1%),
 - ✓ Punjab (12.6%) and
 - ✓ Andhra Pradesh (12.4%).
- India - was ranked at 122nd position among 181 countries in Global Youth Development Index, 2020, released by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London
- India fell six spots to the 32nd place in the global coronavirus innovation rankings for countries, as per a report prepared by StartupBlink in association with Health Innovation Exchange, UNAIDS.

APPOINTMENTS

- Deepak Das takes charge as new Controller General of Accounts
- Dhriti Banerjee
 - ✓ It as become the first woman to be appointed as director of the 105-year-old Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).
- N. K. Singh: New President of Institute of Economic Growth Society
 - ✓ Chairman of 15th Finance Commission, NK Singh, has been elected as the new president of Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society.
 - ✓ He succeeded former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh who was the President of IEG since 1992

AWARD

- **Lokamanya Tilak Award**
 - ✓ **Dr Cyrus Poonawalla**, chairman of the Pune-based vaccine maker Serum Institute of India (SII) - to be honoured with the **prestigious Lokamanya Tilak National Award for 2021**.
- **The Allahabad Central University - has announced its decision to give an honorary degree of D.Litt to eminent Bollywood lyricist, Gulzar**
- **Khel Ratna Award renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award will be renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award
- **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards 2021 announced**
 - ✓ The Family Man 2 actors Manoj Bajpayee and Samantha Akkineni were among the winners of the latest edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards.
- **List of winners of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2021:**
 - ✓ Best Feature Film: **Soorarai Pottru**
 - ✓ Best Performance Male (Feature): **Suriya Sivakumar** (Soorarai Pottru)
 - ✓ Best Performance Female (Feature): **Vidya Balan** (Sherni) & Honourable mention to Nimisha Sajayan (The Great Indian Kitchen)
 - ✓ Best Director: **Anurag Basu** (Ludo) & Honourary Mention Prithvi Konanur (Pinki Elli?)
- **The 144 Gallantry awards include:**
 - ✓ Ashok Chakra: Babu Ram (posthumously), ASI, Jammu and Kashmir Police.
 - ✓ Kirti Chakra: Altaf Hussain Bhat (posthumously), Constable, J&K Police.
 - ✓
- **Indian biologist Shailendra Singh** has been awarded the **Behler Turtle Conservation Award** for bringing three critically endangered turtle conservation species back from the brink of extinction

PERSONALITIES

- **Kerala-based Professor John Abraham - gets patent for producing biodiesel from the waste of slaughtered chicken**
 - ✓ As per the findings, 1 litre of biodiesel can be produced from 100 kg of chicken waste.
 - ✓ Indian Patent Office finally granted the patent recently to John Abraham, an associate professor at the veterinary college under the Kerala Veterinary & Animal Sciences University.
- **The West Bengal government - has decided to rename the NRS Medical College and Hospital boys' hostel after Dr Subhash Mukhopadhyay, the architect of India's first test tube baby.**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- **Golden Rice**
 - ✓ Golden Rice was developed by the **Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute** in partnership with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to contain additional levels of **beta-carotene**, which the body converts into **vitamin A**
 - ✓ **Golden Rice** is genetically engineered to provide up to 50% of the estimated average requirement for vitamin A of young children, the age group most susceptible to VAD in the Philippines.
- **The ISRO-NASA joint mission NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) - is proposed to be launched in early 2023**
 - ✓ **NISAR is a joint Earth-Observation mission** between ISRO and US space agency NASA for global observations over all land masses including the Polar cryosphere and the Indian Ocean region.
- **C - BEEV**
 - ✓ Centre for Battery Engineering and Electric Vehicles Research (C BEEV) in IIT, Madras - has developed a range of motors and sub assemblies for e-rickshaws
 - ✓ The first of the motors for electric vehicles with design details will be delivered on August 15.
 - ✓ The C BEEV has started signing agreements with manufacturers for commercial usage
 - ✓ The missing part is cell manufacturing, which has been included by the government now as part of the PLI Scheme
 - ✓ Production linked incentive (PLI) scheme is an incentive package where a manufacturer gets fiscal incentives upon achieving targets.
- **Gisat - 1**
 - ✓ India - launched, Gisat-1, its most advanced geo-imaging satellite, on 12th August at 5:43 am from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.

- ✓ Gisat-1 will be placed 36,000 km above the Earth in the geostationary orbit and will provide real-time information about the large areas of interest.
 - ✓ EOS-3 will also enable quick monitoring of natural disasters, episodic and short-term events. (But mission failed).
 - ✓ The satellite, capable of near real-time monitoring of floods and cyclones, will also enable monitoring of water bodies, crops, vegetation conditions and forest cover changes.
- **Chandrayaan-2 mission's orbiter - has detected the "unambiguous presence of hydroxyl and water molecules" on the Moon's surface**
 - **Researchers of the Molecular Biophysics Unit, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) - have developed a method to block bacteria from flushing out antibiotics.**
 - **Rapid Covid - 19 Test**
 - ✓ Researchers - have developed a new cheaper, faster and more accurate Covid-19 diagnostic test that uses pencil lead
 - ✓ The Low-cost Electrochemical Advanced Diagnostic (LEAD) test gives 100% accurate results from saliva samples and up to 88% accuracy in nasal samples
 - ✓ Previously the research team worked on a Covid-19 testing kit called 'RAPID', which uses screen-printed electrodes.
 - **Bharat Biotech's chikungunya vaccine candidate (BBV87) - has commenced a multi-country phase II and III clinical trials**
 - **"Karmayogi"**
 - ✓ Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated "Karmayogi" Digital Learning Facility for Civil Servants.
 - ✓ Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, inaugurated the "Karmayogi" Digital Learning Facility for Civil Servants at the Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) in Delhi.
 - ✓ The "Karmayogi" Digital Learning Facility will further boost the citizen-centric reforms initiated by the Government.
 - ✓ It will offer courses for upgrading the skills of Central Government officers and personnel. ISTM has released 75 courses with a running time of 75 hours on the Karmayogi Digital Learning Lab platform.

SPORTS

- **National Women online chess title**
 - ✓ Delhi's Vantika Agarwal - has won the National women online chess title recently
 - ✓ Ninth seed Vantika scored 9.5 round from 11 rounds to emerge as the winner.
- **India's star badminton player PV Sindhu - defeated He Bing Jiao of China to win the women's singles bronze medal at Tokyo Olympics**
 - ✓ Sindhu became the first Indian woman to win two individual Olympic medals
 - ✓ Sindhu was also the first Indian badminton player to win a Silver medal at the Olympics.
- **India's Lovlina Borgohain - won bronze in the women's welterweight after losing to reigning World Champion Turkey's Busenaz Surmeneli 0-5 in the semifinal at the Tokyo Olympics**
- **Harshit Raja - became India's 69th Grandmaster after securing his third and final norm at the Biel Masters Open 2021.**
- **India men's hockey team led by Manpreet Singh - defeated Germany 5-4 to win the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics on August .**
 - ✓ The last time India had won a medal in hockey was at the 1980 Moscow Games where they got the gold.
- **Indian wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya - clinched an Olympic silver medal after losing his 57 kg final to Russian two-time defending world champion Zaur Uguev on August**
- **1st Women Hockey team in India**
 - ✓ Indian women's hockey team - loses to Great Britain in field hockey bronze medal play-off match at the **2020 Tokyo Olympics on August.**
- **India - sets a new Asian record in the men's 4x400m relay at the Tokyo Olympics**
 - ✓ The quartet of Amoj Jacob, Arokia Rajiv, Muhammed Anas and Noah Nirmal Tom bettered Qatar's 3:00.56 set at the 2018 Asian Games.
 - ✓ The Indian team finished fourth in Heat 2 of the relay with 3:00.25 seconds.
- ✓ **Sumit Nagal** became only the third Indian to win a men's singles match at an Olympics edition and the first in 25 years, when he defeated Denis Istomin in the first match at Tokyo Games. Zeeshan Ali was the first Indian to win a singles match at the 1988 Seoul Games when he beat Victo Caballero from Paraguay. After that, Leander Paes won the men's singles bronze at the 1996 Atlanta Games, beating Brazil's Fernando Meligeni.
- ✓
- ✓

- **Neeraj Chopra - won the men's javelin event with a best throw of 87.58 metres, claiming a historic first Olympic gold in athletics for India**
 - ✓ With this win, the 23-year old Chopra became the first Indian track and field and second Indian athlete to win an Olympic gold after Abhinav Bindra's heroics in Beijing 2008.
- **Ace wrestler Bajrang Punia - became the sixth wrestler to clinch a medal for India at the Olympics on August**
 - ✓ Bajrang won gold at the 2018 Asian Games and then won silver at the 2019 World Championships.
- **7th August to be named "Javelin Throw Day" to honour Neeraj Chopra**
 - ✓ The Athletics Federation of India has decided that javelin throw day will be on 7th August every year in honour of Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra
- **Medal Tally:**
 - ✓ The **United States** has topped the overall medal table with 113 medals, which includes 39 Gold, 41 Silver and 33 Bronze Medal.
 - ✓ **Emma Mckeon** became the **first female swimmer to win seven medals in a single Olympic event**. She won seven medals at the Tokyo Olympics. She belongs to Australia.
- **India in the Tokyo Olympics 2020**
- Indian Contingent managed to win 7 medals comprising 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze Medals. The country stood at the 48th position in the medal table out of 86 countries
 - ✓ India finished the Games with its best-ever Olympic medal tally of 7 in Tokyo Games 2020, surpassing the previous best record of 6 medals at the 2012 London Olympics.
 - ✓ **MC Mary Kom**, and men's hockey team skipper, **Manpreet Singh**, were flag-bearers for the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony.
 - ✓ **Bronze-medalist Bajrang Punia** was the **flag-bearer at the closing ceremony of the event**.

Indian Medal Winners List

Gold

- ✓ Men's Javelin Throw: Neeraj Chopra

Silver

- ✓ Women's 49kg Weightlifting: Mirabai Chanu
- ✓ Men's Freestyle 57kg Wrestling: Ravi Dahiya

Bronze

- ✓ Women's Welterweight boxing: **Lovlina Borgohain**
- ✓ Women's Singles Badminton: **PV Sindhu**
- ✓ Men's 65kg Freestyle Wrestling: **Bajrang Punia**

- **Mariyappan Thangavelu**, 2016 Rio Paralympic Games gold medalist will be replaced by Asian Games gold medalist Tekchand as the new flag-bearer of India at the opening ceremony.
- **India's Mariyappan Thangavelu has won the silver medal in the men's high jump (T63) at the Tokyo Paralympics.**
- **Tokyo Paralympics 2020, Indian shooter Singhraj Adana has won the bronze medal in the P1 Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 final**

OBITUARY

➤ Former UP CM Kalyan Singh

- ✓ In 1991, Singh became the first BJP chief minister of the country's most populous state.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Day	Theme	Significances
<u>Aug 1</u> Muslim Women Rights Day	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triple Talaq
<u>Aug 7</u> National Handloom Day	Hand Loom - An Indian Legacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second-largest source of employment in India
<u>Aug 1 to Aug 7</u> World Breastfeeding Week	"Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide them with essential nutrients and to protect them from many infections and diseases
<u>Aug 12</u> International Youth Day	"Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an awareness day designated by the United Nations.
<u>Aug 12</u> World Elephant Day	Preservation and Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spreading awareness against poaching
<u>Aug 18</u> Zero Shadow Day		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your shadow was to be right under you
<u>Aug 19</u> World Humanitarian Day	"The Human Race"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on boosting up the global action in order to combat climate change and stand in solidarity with the vulnerable populations
<u>Aug 19</u> World Photography Day	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To celebrate the art, craft, science and history of photography.
<u>Aug 21</u> World Senior Citizen Day	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibit appreciation to seniors and to understand their achievements.
<u>Aug 22</u> Madras Day	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village of Madrasapatnam was purchased by the East India Company from the Vijayanagar Empire

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TAMIL NADU

- **Dr J Jayalalithaa University merged with Annamalai University**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - passed a Bill in the assembly to merge Dr J Jayalalithaa University with Annamalai University.
 - ✓ The DMK's new bill seeks to repeal the Dr J Jayalalithaa University Act 2021.
- **T.N. announces parks for future mobility, apparels**
 - ✓ An integrated apparel park in Virudhunagar district at a cost of 400 crore, a future mobility park in Krishnagiri district at a cost of 300 crore and a SIPCOT Industrial Park in Tiruvallur district, costing 250 crore, were among the major announcements made by the Tamil Nadu government in the Assembly .
- **Electoral rolls released for Nine new districts**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu **State Election Commission** released the electoral roll in nine newly carved districts in the State, ahead of the rural local body polls in those districts.
 - ✓ As per the data provided, the nine districts of **Chengalpattu, Kallakurichi, Kancheepuram, Ranipet, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, Tirupattur, Vellore** and Villupuram have a total of 76,59,720 voters
- **Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced that Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board will henceforth be known as Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board**
 - ✓ 'Housing for All' scheme for the urban slum/poor families before 2030
- **Sponge Park**
 - ✓ Greater Chennai Corporation - has proposed to set up a 'sponge park' with artificial pond and rain gardens at the **Kargil Nagar flood water pumping station in Manali zone.**
- **Unique Health ID**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu government - is planning to provide a unique health ID (UHID) to everyone in the state.
 - ✓ The registry will have the name, age, gender, mobile number, smart (ration) card number, health ID, street details, health sub-centre of the beneficiaries.
 - ✓ The state has already commenced the pilot run of UHID projects in two blocks of Krishnagiri district.
- **The Tamil Nadu Small Industries Corporation Limited (TANSIDCO) - is planning to establish four industrial estates at a cost of Rs. 218.22 crore for MSME units in Tiruvallur, Chengalpet, Trichy and Madurai district**
 - ✓ Through the Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Grant Fund (TANSEED), the state is also planning to provide a grant of Rs.10 lakh each to 50 startups this year.
- **The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board - to launch a 'web-based GeoSpatial Services (GSS)' portal to geo-tag industrial polluters in state.**

- **The State government - to set up common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) in 10 locations in Erode and Namakkal districts to prevent discharge of effluents from industries into water bodies.**
- **Blue flag certification**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - plans to spend Rs.100 crore over the next five years to get the prestigious **Blue Flag certification for the Marina** and nine other beaches in the state.
- **Chief minister of Tamil Nadu - announced a 'manimandapam' (memorial) for the renowned 19th century Tamil scholar Iyothee Thass Pandithar in North Chennai on the sidelines of his 175th birth anniversary**
 - ✓ **Iyothee Thass Pandithar was born as Kathavarayan** in Royapettah in Chennai on May 20, 1845
 - ✓ Out of reverence and affection for his guru, he took the name of Iyothee Thass after his teacher, Iyothee Thaasa Kaviraja Pandithar
 - ✓ His grandfather, Kanthappan handed over palm leaf manuscripts of '**Thirukkural**' and '**Naaladiyar**' to British civil servant Francis Whyte Ellis and helped towards their publication
 - ✓ Iyothee Thass Pandithar. founded the **Advaita Sabha in 1870** with the objective of fighting caste system and '**Dravida Mahajana Sabhai**' in 1891.
 - ✓ ' ,
- **On September, Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - announced cancellation of 1% market cess levied on cotton and cotton waste**
- **Chief Minister M K Stalin - presented the Dr Radhakrishnan award to 15 selected teachers out of 389 awardees on September 5**
 - ✓ This year, **Dr Radhakrishnan Award** was conferred to 389 teachers who have excelled in teaching innovation, design for education, environmental improvement, and student enrolment.
- **On September 6, state-run power utility, Tangedco - signed a memorandum of understanding with Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, a government of India enterprise for mutual collaboration**
 - ✓ Accordingly, TANGEDCO is planning for 20,000 MW of Solar Power Project, 3,000 MW of Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Project, and 2,000 MW of Gas Based Power Plant for efficient **Renewable integration**.
 - ✓ The state government is keen on investing in renewable energy as its own generation from thermal power stations is only 4,320MW, in comparison with the average demand of 15,000MW.
- **Tamil Nadu makes it official: it's workers' right to sit**
 - ✓ It introduces a Bill that makes it mandatory for establishments to provide seating to employees.

- ✓ It might not have all the connotations of a **Rosa Parks'** protest, but the Bill that the Tamil Nadu government introduced in the Assembly on Monday is revolutionary enough by recognising **workers' "right to sit"**.
- **On September, the state government - announced solar power parks across the state to generate 4,000MW of solar energy with battery storage system of 2,000MW in areas excluding corporations and municipalities.**
- **Tamil Nadu-Denmark plan energy island in Gulf of Mannar**
 - ✓ State of Tamil Nadu and Denmark have planned to create an energy island in **Gulf of Mannar** that lies between the west coast of Sri Lanka and south-eastern tip of India.
 - ✓ This plan was made as Tamil Nadu is looking to expand its footprint in the **green energy sector**.
- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced in the state Assembly that a civilization flourished on the banks of Thamira barani river 3,200 years ago**
 - ✓ Carbon dating showed paddy found in **burial urn at sivakalai** in Thoothukudi district belonged to 1155 BCE
 - ✓ Thamirabarani river starts in pothigai hills of Western Ghats, flows through Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts and empties at korkai (Tirunelveli district into Gulf of Mannar)
 - ✓ The paddy in the urn belonged to 1,155 BCE that is 600 years older than the samples found in **Keeladi in Sivaganga** district where the excavation is ongoing .
 - ✓ According to the historians, the graffiti found in the Indus Valley civilization and in south India are about 80% identical
 - ✓ The state archaeological department is now excavating sites at **Adichanallur, Sivagalai, Korkai, Kodumanal, Mayiladumparai and Gangaikonda Cholapuram**.
- **The Tamil Nadu government - has proposed to start excavation at three new sites – Vembakottai in Virudhunagar, Thulukkarpatti in Tiruvelveli and Perumpalai in Dharmapuri district.**
- **'Porunai civilisation is 3,200 years old'**
 - ✓ "The finding has established that the **Porunai river [Thamirabarani] civilisation** dates back to 3,200 years.
- **Grantha Script**
- **A stone inscription with Grantha script and a sculpture - have been discovered near Karuvelampatti in Thiruparankundram union in Madurai district**
- **Freedom fighter Subramania Bharati's 100th death anniversary**
 - ✓ The CM declared September 11 as "**Mahakavi Day**", recalling the contributions of the freedom fighter who also advocated equal social rights to all.
- **Tamil Nadu Government - to celebrate the birth anniversary of social reformer Periyar E V Ramasamy, September 17, as 'Day of Social Justice' every year**

□ **Thanthai Periyar, as he is popularly known, founded the Dravidar Kazhagam, a precursor to the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK).**

□ **The chief minister recalled former chief minister and DMK founder CN Annadurai's 1967 statement in the Assembly that the first DMK government was "a tribute to Periyar".**

He also said the first amendment to the Indian Constitution came about because of Periyar, who "never went to Parliament.

□ **Celebrations for V.O.C.'s birth anniversary**

□ **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin made 14 announcements in the Assembly in line with his Independence Day speech that the 150th birth anniversary of freedom fighter V.O. Chidambaranar would be celebrated as a government function**

The freedom fighter's death anniversary on November 18 would be observed as a 'Day of Sacrifice.

- **"Ola Electric" - announced an "all-women" 10,000-strong workforce at its upcoming two-wheeler factory in Pochampalli village of Krishnagiri district in TN**
 - ✓ The **Foxconn** group company has a 25,000 all-women team manufacturing devices and appliances.
 - ✓ Under a specialised '**Project Tejaswini**' initiative, **Hero Motors** has also increased the number of women employees on the shopfloor to more than 1,000
- **Tamil Nadu declares encroachment of temple land as cognizable, non-bailable offence**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu Assembly on September 13, 2021, passed a bill that makes the encroachment of properties belonging to religious institutions a cognizable and non-bailable offence.
 - ✓ The bill seeking the amendment of the **Tamil Nadu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959** was tabled in the assembly on September 13 and was passed unanimously.
 - ✓ The Government of Tamil Nadu has launched a massive drive to retrieve the temple lands that have been encroached in various areas of the State
- **KNMT _ Kalaingar Nagarpura Membattu Thittam**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu government - has launched the Rs.1,000-crore **Kalaingar Nagarpura Membattu Thittam (KNMT)** to fill infrastructure gaps in urban local bodies, especially municipalities and town panchayats.
- **Tamil Nadu and Kerala governments - agreed to set up technical sub-committees to assess the Nirar-Nallar multipurpose straight-cut scheme**
 - ✓ The panel will discuss ways and means to avoid a long circuitous route and convey water from **Upper Nirar to river Nallar**
 - ✓ The discussions included building a new dam under **Pandiyar-Punnampuzha** project to divert water to **Noyyal and Bhavani** basin in Tamil Nadu.

- **Ravindra Narayan Ravi - was sworn in as the 26th governor of Tamil Nadu on September**
 - ✓ Chief Justice of the Madras HC, **Sanjib Banerjee**, administered the oath of office to him at a ceremony at the Raj Bhavan, Chennai
 - ✓ During the swearing-in event that lasted for 10 minutes, **chief secretary V Irai Anbu** read out **'Warrant of Appointment'** signed by President Ram Nath Kovind on September.

- **Sahitya Akademy Awards**
 - ✓ Two Tamil writers – **TES Raghavan and K Chellappan** – have been chosen for the **Sahitya Akademi prize** for translation for the year 2020.

- **CM lauds winners of Sahitya Akademi**
 - ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin commended the winners of the **Sahitya Akademi Prize for Translation**, who has translated Tamil works in other languages and vice versa.
 - ✓ He extended his greetings to **K. Chellappan**, who translated Rabindranath Tagore's Bengali novel **Gora in Tamil**;
 - ✓ **T.E.S. Raghavan**, who translated saint-poet **Thiruvalluvar's Tirukkural in Hindi**
 - ✓ **Sonali Navangul**, who translated Tamil novel **Irاندam Jaamankalin Kathai** by Salma in Marathi.

- **Honour for a Tamil writer after 25 years**
 - ✓ **Indira Parthasarathy**, commonly known as **Ee. Paa**, is **Sahitya Akademi fellow**.
 - ✓ After a gap of 25 years, the Sahitya Akademi has chosen a Tamil littérateur – **Indira Parthasarathy**, commonly known as **Ee. Paa** – for its highest honour of Fellowship.
 - ✓ In 1996, **D. Jayakanthan**, aged 62, was the youngest to become a Fellow of the Akademi. Before him, only two from the Tamil literary world – **Rajaji or C. Rajagopalachari (1969) and T.P. Meenakshisundaram (1975)**.
 - ✓ of the three previous recipients, Rajaji was known for his elegant Tamil prose. **Meenakshi sundaram** was a **"great Tamil scholar and proficient in many languages"**.
 - ✓ Jayakanthan was the **"first full-fledged creative writer"** who was made a Fellow.

- **Two private engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu - have proposed to offer mechanical engineering and computer science engineering courses in Tamil from 2021-22.**
- **This is the first time since College of Engineering (CEG) in Anna University launched engineering in Tamil 11 years ago.**

- **'Silambam recognised by Centre'**
- **Silambam, an Indian martial art developed by Tamils, has been recognised under the 'Promotion of inclusiveness through sports' initiative of the 'Khelo India' programme.**

□ The state government has decided to make “Silambam”, a prehistoric martial art developed in the state, as one of the sporting disciplines eligible for recruitment under 3% sports quota

➤ **The Tamil Nadu government - to bear the entire education cost of all government school students joining professional courses under the 7.5% quota**

The Kovalam beach in Chennai and Eden beach in Puducherry - have been awarded the prestigious “Blue Flag” certification

- ✓ India have 10 beaches with the coveted international eco-level tag that is given to clean and well-managed beaches as per globally recognised standards
- ✓ Eden Beach of Puducherry becomes the first beach in the Union Territory to get the coveted eco label

➤ **Tamil Nadu export promotion policy 2021 in Chennai on September**

- ✓ The CM urged industries to focus on exports of wide range of GI-tagged products of the state, including Kancheepuram and Arani silk sarees, Thanjavur art works, **Pathamadai** mats, Mahabalipuram stone sculptures, Madurai **jasmine**, Sirumalai **plantains** and Dindigul **locks**, which have demand across the globe.

➤ **Tamil Nadu government - has identified six champion sectors to focus for the State’s exports thrust**

- ✓ The champion sectors identified for achieving the \$100 billion target include **automobile and auto components, textiles, food processing, leather and footwear, electronic and communication** as well as machinery.

✓ On September, the State Government - approved one lakh power connections to farmers – most of which would be free -- at a cost of Rs. 3,025 crore to the exchequer

The one lakh farm electricity connection scheme was recently announced in the State Assembly during the demand for grants (2021-22) for Energy Department.

The state government has entered into an agreement with Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) to provide technical expertise in developing renewable energy projects and raise funds to the tune of Rs.1.32 lakh crore

➤ **The school education department - is planning to launch a statewide campaign to prevent the learning loss and to ensure basic literacy among children of Classes I to VIII**

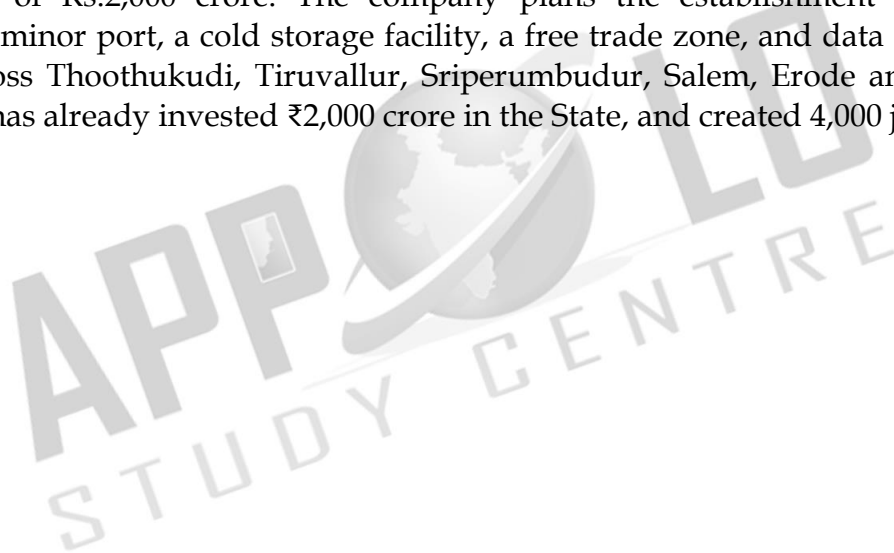
- ✓ Under the campaign, the government plans to take schools to places near students with the assistance of local volunteers to ensure everyone has foundational numeracy and literacy skills.
- ✓ It will be modelled on the ‘**Veethi Vagupparai**’ (Classes on the Streets) method followed by a NGO.

- ✓ The campaign is likely to be linked with the government's 'Ennum Ezhuthum' mission to ensure children are able to comprehend and possess basic arithmetic skills by the time they reach eight years old.
- **MGR Railway Station of Chennai has become a Green railway fully powered by solar energy.**
 - ✓ **Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MG Ramachandran Central (DRM)** or Chennai Central railway station will get 100 percent energy through Solar Energy. The Chennai Central railway station comes under the South Central Railway (SCR) zone and which is going to become the world's largest green railway network.
- **Tamil Nadu finance minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan** – has been nominated by the GST Council in the Group of Ministers (GoM) formed to usher in GST System Reforms
- **Tamil Nadu-based MSME bags contract from Boeing**
 - ✓ For the first time, a Tamil Nadu-based MSME has clinched a deal with the largest aerospace firm Boeing.
 - ✓ Aerospace Engineers Private Limited, located in Salem, won a long-term contract from Boeing to manufacture and supply critical aviation components and parts for the global aerospace company's products.
 - ✓ It will be setting a new manufacturing plant in Hosur.
- **Trans Kitchen**
 - ✓ Trans Kitchen, a hotel run by a group of **transgender people**, was inaugurated near Goripalayam junction, Madurai.
 - ✓ It is a first-of-its-kind initiative in the city.
 - ✓ Swasti organization funded the initiative, in association with organizations like **Aroghyam, Virutti, and Sri Lakshmi Pengal Munnetra Sangam**
- **Defence corridor: T.N. seeks Centre's support**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu urged the Defence Ministry to sanction six major proposals.
 - ✓ Under the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme, the State sought sanction for five proposals – **communication systems & RF antenna in Chennai;**
 - ✓ testing infrastructure for **unmanned aircraft systems in Ulundurpet/Sholavaram;**
 - ✓ a mechanical and material testing facility in Tiruchi;
 - ✓ **electromagnetic interference** and electromagnetic compatibility tests in Chennai; and testing infrastructure for ammunitions in **Tiruchi.**
- **Chief Minister, M K Stalin - inaugurated the Tamil Nadu police museum at Egmore in Chennai on September**
- **Medical Devices Park will attract 3,500 cr. in investments'**
 - ✓ The Medical Devices Park that will come up at Oragadam will attract investments to the tune of 3,500 crore and is expected provide direct and indirect employment to about 10,000 people, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Tuesday
- **Chief Minister M K Stalin - relaunched the 'Varumun Kappom' (preventive healthcare) scheme as 'Kalaigarin Varumun Kappom' at a function at Vazhapadi in Salem on September**

- **On September, Chief Minister M K Stalin - introduced a bill in the state assembly to constitute a state commission for scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs).**

The bill is to be called "The Tamil Nadu State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, 2021"

- **The Tamil Nadu government - has increased the quota for women in government jobs from 30% to 40 %**
- TN Govt. to introduce new cement brand 'Valimai'
- TN Govt. to introduce new salt brand 'Neidhal'
- Tamil Nadu government has signed a MoU with UAE based DP World for proposed investment of Rs.2,000 crore. The company plans the establishment of a container terminal, a minor port, a cold storage facility, a free trade zone, and data centres, among others, across Thoothukudi, Tiruvallur, Sriperumbudur, Salem, Erode and Coimbatore. DP World has already invested ₹2,000 crore in the State, and created 4,000 jobs.



STATE

- **'My Pad, My Right'** project in Tripura
- **'Merakaam Mera Maan'**
 - ✓ Punjab to Launch 'Mera Kaam Mera Maan' Scheme to Help Unemployed Youth
- **The state of Uttarakhand - has decided to deploy women as Gypsy drivers and nature guides across all tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries.**
 - ✓ Two tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh – **Kanha Tiger Reserve-National Park** and the **Pench Tiger Reserve-National Park** – have women guides who accompany tourists to core tiger-inhabited areas.
- **Samagra Sikhsha Abhiyan (SSA)**
 - ✓ **Olympian Lovlina Borgohain as the brand ambassador of the Samagra Sikhsha Abhiyan (SSA) in the state of Assam.**
- **Uttar Pradesh Government launches 'Matra Bhumi Yojana' for the improvement of rural infrastructure**
- **'Katley' declared as state fish of Sikkim**
 - ✓ The Government of Sikkim has declared 'Cooper Mahseer' locally named as 'Katley' as the state fish. *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis* is the scientific name of the Cooper Mahseer
- **The Government of Chhattisgarh - signed MoU with Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to launch the 'Millet Mission' in the state**
- **Kolkata is getting the world's first museum on a tram that symbolizes how people's solidarity survived the freedom struggle, partition and the events of 1947**
- **Assam's Rice Wine 'Judima' receives GI Tag**
 - ✓ Assam's traditional **Judima wine** has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
 - ✓ It is made from rice and a certain herb and widely popular among the **Dimasa tribals**.
 - ✓ Judima is inseparable from the social and cultural life of the Dimasas.
 - ✓ This is the second product from the hill districts of Karbi Anglong and **Dima Hasao to get GI tag after ginger of Karbi Anglong** was awarded GI tag.
 - ✓ **Judima is the first beverage from the Northeast to get this honour**
- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahaabhiyaan (PM-KUSUM), as per the data by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.**
 - ✓ Haryana has installed 14,418 pumps against 15,000 sanctioned pumps for the year 2020-21.
 - ✓ Haryana was given a target of 15,000 pumps for the year 2020-21 with a total cost of Rs 520 crore

NATIONAL

- **India - is the most polluted country in the world, with more than 480 million people or about 40% of its population exposed to pollution**
 - ✓ This was revealed in the annual **Air Quality Life Index** report from the University of Chicago released on September
 - ✓ Delhi is the most impacted state in the entire country, with the average person losing 9.7 years of life as compared to average life expectancy if WHO standards were being met.
 - ✓ Uttar Pradesh is the second ranked state with an average person losing 9.5 years of life.

- **Smog**
 - ✓ Delhi chief minister **Arvind Kejriwal** - inaugurated India's first-ever smog tower at **Baba Kharak Singh Marg** in the Connaught Place recently
 - ✓ Smog towers are structures that are designed as large-scale air purifiers in order to reduce air pollution particles.
 - ✓ **PM2.5** refers to fine particles which penetrate deep into the body and fuel inflammation in the lungs and respiratory tract, leading to risks of cardiovascular and respiratory problems, including a weak immune system.
 - ✓ **"IQAir"**, a Switzerland-based air quality technology company that measures air quality levels of selected cities based on PM2.5 concentration, ranked Delhi the world's most polluted capital for the third straight year in 2020.

- **Centre, Assam government and five Karbi Anglong ultra groups - signed a tripartite peace accord on September**
 - ✓ The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister of Shipping and Waterways, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the representatives of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council in New Delhi.
 - ✓ The five groups are **Karbi Longri** NC Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF), **People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK)**, **Kuki Liberation Front (KLF)**, **United Peoples Liberation Army (UPLA)** and **Karbi People's Liberation Tiger (KPLT)**.

- **Two teachers from Tamil Nadu, who received the award from the President, are K Asha Devi and D Lalitha**
 - ✓ **Asha Devi** is the headmistress of the Panchayat Union Middle School at Piratiyur
 - ✓ She was the recipient of numerous awards, including the State government's 2019 Best PTA Teacher Award
 - ✓ **D Lalitha** is the Headmistress of Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Modakurichi.
 - ✓ She has been teaching Physics to students for the past 19 years
 - ✓ The day marks the beginning of **Shikshak Parv-2021** under the Ministry of Education.

- **Shikshak Parv - 2021**
 - ✓ On September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched the National Digital Educational Architecture (N-DEAR), which is likely to play a major role in eradicating inequality in education and its modernisation.

- **Jal Shakti Ministry launches Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021**
 - ✓ Minister of State of Jal Shakti Ministry, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, launched the “**Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021**” under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase -II.
 - ✓ It was launched at an event organized by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) on September 9, 2021.
 - ✓ Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021 will be undertaken by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) across the country.
 - ✓ DDWS has commissioned the Survekshan in 2018 and 2019 earlier
- **The National Mission for Clean Ganga -** has celebrated ‘Himalaya Diwas’ recently under the theme ‘Contribution of Himalayas and our responsibilities’
- **The Ministry of AYUSH - had launched a new campaign “AYUSH AAPKE DWAR” from 45 locations across India.**
- **Subramania Bharathi Chair at BHU**
 - ✓ PM Modi announced the setting up of the Subramania Bharati **chair** in the memory of Legendary Tamil Poet Subramania Bharati at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) for Tamil
 - ✓ The chair has been established **on the occasion of the 100th death anniversary of Subramania Bharati** (11th September 2021).
 - ✓ The chair will be recognized in the faculty of arts at Banaras Hindu University (BHU).
- **PM launches Sansad TV, calls it voice of the House**
 - ✓ Sansad TV, a news channel combining the Lok Sabha TV and the Rajya Sabha TV, was launched on Wednesday at a function presided over by Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Speaker Om Birla.
- **The 45th GST council Meeting - was chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on September 17, 2021 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**
 - ✓ It had also decided to charge 5% GST on services by cloud kitchens and food delivery platforms like **Zomato** and **Swiggy** with effect from January 1, 2022
 - ✓ The food delivery aggregators will have to collect and deposit 5% GST with the government, in place of restaurants, for deliveries made by them
 - ✓ Meanwhile, the council has decided to revise GST rates to correct Inverted duty structure anomalies in footwear and textile sectors, which is to be implemented from January 1, 2022
 - ✓ Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the cess collected on goods such as soft drinks, tobacco, coal and cars for the repayment of loans to compensate states for GST shortfall will continue up to March 2026
- **NITI Aayog Partners Byju’s to educate children in 112 aspirational districts**
 - ✓ Government think tank NITI Aayog has entered into partnered with edtech major Byju’s, to provide free access to Byju’s high-quality and tech-driven learning programmes to children from 112 Aspirational districts of the country.
- **Niti Aayog tie-up with ISRO,CBSE launch ‘Space Challenge’ for school students**

- ✓ Niti Aayog's **Atal Innovation Mission** in collaboration with ISRO and CBSE has launched 'Space Challenge' for school students across India.
 - ✓ This challenge has been designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers across the country who not only are associated with schools having **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) labs** but for all the non-ATL schools as well.
 - ✓ The aim of this challenge is to enable innovation among young school students to create something in the space sector that will not only help them learn about the space but create something that the space programme can use itself
- **India's first indigenous cruise liner launched by IRCTC**
 - ✓ The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has joined hands and signed the agreement with **Cordelia Cruises** being operated by M/s Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt. Ltd for promotion and marketing of the first indigenous luxury cruise in India.
 - ✓ This is another incredible luxury travel offering under IRCTC's umbrella of tourism services to the public.
- **The month-long 'POSHAN Maah'** or National Nutrition Mission under **POSHAN Abhiyan** - is being observed across the country in the month of September
 - **The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** - launched a digital platform for dairy farmers to provide real-time information on animal health, nutrition and breed development.
 - **Trans - Fat free by 2022.**
 - ✓ As per Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) study, India is all set and is on the right track to become industrial **trans fat-free by 2022.**
 - ✓ In India, only **1.34 percent** of the newly tested processed food samples shows more than the permissible levels of ingredients.
 - ✓ FSSAI cited pan-India survey results and dismiss the perception of excessive use of industrial **trans fats** in processed food products.
 - ✓ India has mandated to reduce the limit of industrially **produced trans fats to 2 per cent in order make India free from the industrially produced trans fats by 2022**, one year ahead of the WHO guidelines.
 - **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**
 - ✓ The world's largest healthcare scheme **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)** has completed three years. It was launched on September 23rd, 2018.
 - **PM Modi to roll out National Digital Health Mission**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi (on September 27, 2021) will announce the nationwide rollout of the **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), which has been renamed as Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission (PM-DHM).**
 - ✓ Under this, a unique digital health ID will be provided to the people, which will contain all the health records of the person. The id will be created using details such as Aadhaar and the user's mobile number.
 - **Cabinet approved Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Textiles Industry.**

- ✓ Union Cabinet has approved the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Textiles. The government will provide incentive worth 10,683 crore rupees over five years to textile Industries.
 - ✓ It will create additional direct employment opportunities for more than 7.5 lakh people. It is estimated that **the PLI Scheme for Textiles will attract investment of more than Rs. 19,000 crores.**
 - ✓ The government has also launched a **National Technical Textiles Mission** for promoting research and development in the sector.
 - ✓ It will encourage investment in the textile sector and give push to the man-made fiber segment.
- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission launched**
- ✓ Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has been launched by Prime Minister Modi. It is also known as National Digital Health Mission.
 - ✓ The Mission is being implemented in the pilot phase across 6 union territories.
 - ✓ The launch of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission also coincides with the 3rd anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- **On September 29, the Centre - launched the Prime Minister POSHAN scheme or PM-POSHAN scheme for providing cooked hot meal in government and government-aided schools**
- ✓ The existing Mid-Day Meal scheme will be renamed as the National Scheme for **PM Poshan Shakti Nirman.**
 - ✓ The Mid-Day meal scheme was initially launched by the Narasimha Rao government in the year 1995
 - ✓ The scheme will be extended to students studying in pre-primary or Balvatikas running in government and government aided primary schools.

SCHEME

'Saath'

- In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched a Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme titled 'Saath' for Self Help Group (SHG) women.

SVAMITVA Scheme

- Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Giriraj Singh inaugurated a national meet on SVAMITVA Scheme:
 - ✓ A Stepping-Stone Towards Upliftment of Rural Economy in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ SVAMITVA is aimed to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India leveraging property as a financial asset by the citizens with accurate land records for rural planning.
- **NEP-2020 drafting committee chairperson K Kasturirangan**
 - ✓ The Union education ministry has formed a 12-member committee to develop new curriculums for school, early childhood, teacher and adult education.
 - ✓ The panel tasked with developing four national curriculum frameworks (NCFs) will be headed by **National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) drafting committee chairperson K Kasturirangan**.
 - ✓ The committee will discuss "**position papers**" finalised by national focus groups on different aspects of the four areas drawing inputs from state curriculum frameworks.
 - ✓ The NCFs serve as a guideline for syllabus, textbook and teaching practices for schools in India.
- **NMCG and SAIARD**
 - ✓ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) signed an MoU with South Asian Institute for Advanced Research and Development (SAIARD) to create **an academic platform to engage young students as well as develop** a research and capacity building hub to support regional development in the eastern region.
 - ✓ Both NMCG and SAIARD will focus on geospatial technology in riverine ecosystems.

COURT VERDICT

- **On September 24, the Supreme Court - sets aside the order of Madras High Court on 10% EWS quota**
The 103rd Constitution Amendment Act, 2019 provides for 10% EWS quota in jobs and admissions to government educational institutions

INTERNATIONAL

- **After two decades, the United States** - has completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan, ending America's longest war, with the last plane out of Kabul
- **Ukraine** - has become the latest Country to **legalise the use of Bitcoin** and other cryptocurrencies on September
- China successfully launches new Earth observation satellite "**Gaofen-5 02**"
- **El Salvador** becomes 1st country to adopt Bitcoin as National Currency
- **UAE's Green Visa**
 - ✓ In 2019, the UAE launched the 10-year "**golden visa**", aimed at welcoming rich residents and highly skilled workers into the country.
- **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) partners with ICRISAT**
 - ✓ The United Nations World Food Programme has joined hands with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).
 - ✓ The partnership is for programmes and research to improve food, nutrition security, and livelihoods in India.
 - ✓ An MoU has been signed in this regard.
 - ✓ Both will work jointly to promote research and awareness-raising on traditional nutritious crop
- **Sri Lanka has declared a state of emergency** .
 - ✓ The sri lankan govt has declared ,state emergency, the food crisis worsened after private banks ran out of foreign exchange to finance imports.
 - ✓ With the country suffering a hard-hitting economic crisis, President **Gotabaya Rajapaksa** said he ordered emergency regulations to counter the hoarding of sugar, rice and other essential foods. The Sri Lankan rupee has fallen by 7.5% against the US dollar this year.
- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has made an allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 12.57 billion to India. (approx USD 17.86 billion). With this, the total SDR holding of India **has gone upto SDR 13.66 billion (equivalent to around USD 19.41 billion).**

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India and the US - have signed an agreement for cooperation in the development of air-launched unmanned aerial vehicles (ALUAVs)**
- **'2+2' Ministerial Dialogue between India & Australia**
 - ✓ India will host the first-ever 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue with Australia in New Delhi
- **US, India launch task forces on Hydrogen and Biofuels**
 - ✓ The US Department of Energy along with its Indian counterparts launched a new public private Hydrogen Task Force as well as a Biofuels Task Force.
 - ✓ These groups have been launched under Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP).
 - ✓ These groups would help expand the use of clean energy technologies to decarbonize the energy sector.
- **India is Dubai's second biggest trade partner**
 - ✓ India has emerged as the second biggest trading partner of Dubai, after China. India's overall volume, in the first half of 2021, is touching 38.5 billion dirhams.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Leaders' Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to attend the first-ever in-person QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Leaders' Summit at the White House, in Washington D.C. on September 24, 2021.
- Quad nation comprises of India, Japan, the US and Australia. PM Modi will also address the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- **PM Modi had addressed UN General Assembly**
 - Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in New York.
 - He is the first world leader scheduled to address the UN General Assembly at 6.30 PM IST. Prior to this, PM Modi had addressed UN General Assembly in 2019.
 - The theme of the 2021 UN General Assembly session was 'building resilience through hope - to recover from Covid-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalise the United Nations.
- **The India- ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit 2021 - was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Anupriya Patel recently.**
- **The Government of Tamil Nadu joined the event as "Partner State" while Government of Haryana as "Focus State"**

- ✓ During the event, the Union Minister said ASEAN will be an important region for India with an export target of US\$ 46 billion in meeting the global export target of US\$ 400 billion in financial year 2021-22
- ✓ The Summit witnessed the participation of over 300 delegates from the Indian industry.
- ✓ This year is special for both partners as it marks the 25th anniversary of India ASEAN dialogue partnership and 10 years of the Strategic Partnership.

➤ **13th BRICS Summits.-IN INDIA**

- ✓ The theme for the Summit is 'BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consensus'.

➤ **India to organize first-ever Global Buddhist Conference in November**

- ✓ India is set to host the first-ever Global Buddhist Conference on November 19 and 20, 2021, in Nava Nalanda Mahavihara campus, in Nalanda, Bihar. The academic conference, being organised by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), will become an annual feature.

➤ **India hosted the 8th Meeting of Agriculture Experts of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Countries through video conferencing.**

- ✓ The meeting was chaired by Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research & Education & Director General of ICAR.
- ✓ BIMSTEC comprise of seven Member States including five from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka), and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.

➤ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the plenary session of the 6th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF), organised in Vladivostok, Russia.** An Indian delegation led by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri and comprising leading Indian oil and gas companies are participating in the EEF Summit 2021 in Russia.

➤ **India is all set to host a key conference as part of the International Climate Summit (ICS) 2020-21** to build a dialogue for India's transition to clean energy. Policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, experts, and scientists from across the globe are going to be a part of the climate summit.

DEFENCE

➤ **QUAD Countries**

- ✓ The Quad countries – **Australia, Japan, India, and the United States** – have conducted the 25th edition of the Malabar naval exercises off the coast of Guam from August 26-29

➤ **AUSINDEX**

- ✓ India and Australia kicked off the 4th edition of their bilateral naval exercise 'AUSINDEX' off Darwin.

➤ **MRSAM-Barak-8 missile system handed over to IAF**

➤ **MRSAM**

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - has handed over the first deliverable Firing Unit (FU) of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) System to Indian Air Force (IAF) at Air Force Station, Jaisalmer in Rajasthan.

➤ **'ZAPAD 2021'**

- ✓ ZAPAD 2021 is a 13-day exercise and will end on 16 September
- ✓ In all, 17 countries are participating in ZAPAD including Mongolia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Russia, India and Belarus.

➤ **Separately, the Indian and Kazakh armies are engaged in a 13-day joint military exercise "KAZIND-21" at training Node Aisha Bibi, Kazakhsta**

➤ **28th Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 'SIMBEX-2021' Concludes**

- ✓ The **28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)** took place from September 02 to 04, 2021.
- ✓ The SIMBEX-2021 annual bilateral maritime exercise was hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the southern fringes of the **South China Sea**.

ECONOMICS

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) - signed a \$300 million loan with the Union Government to expand rural connectivity in Maharashtra**
 - ✓ Further, the ADB had also signed a \$112 million loan to develop water supply infrastructure in the state of Jharkhand.

- **State Bank of India has opened a floating ATM**
 - ✓ A Houseboat at Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar for the convenience of locals and tourists.
 - ✓ The floating ATM was inaugurated by **SBI Chairman Dinesh Khare**.
 - ✓ This is not the first time that SBI has launched a floating ATM as back in 2004, the bank took this initiative in Kerala

- **Reserve Bank of India will conduct open market purchase of Government Securities under the G-Sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 2.0) for Rs 15000 crore.**

- **RBI will also sale Government Securities under Open Market Operations (OMO) for Rs 15000 crore. RBI has asked eligible participants to submit their bids/offers in electronic format on E-Kuber system.**

- **The Reserve bank of India has set the limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for the second half of the financial year 2021-22 i.e October 2021 to March 2022 at Rs. 50,000 crore.**

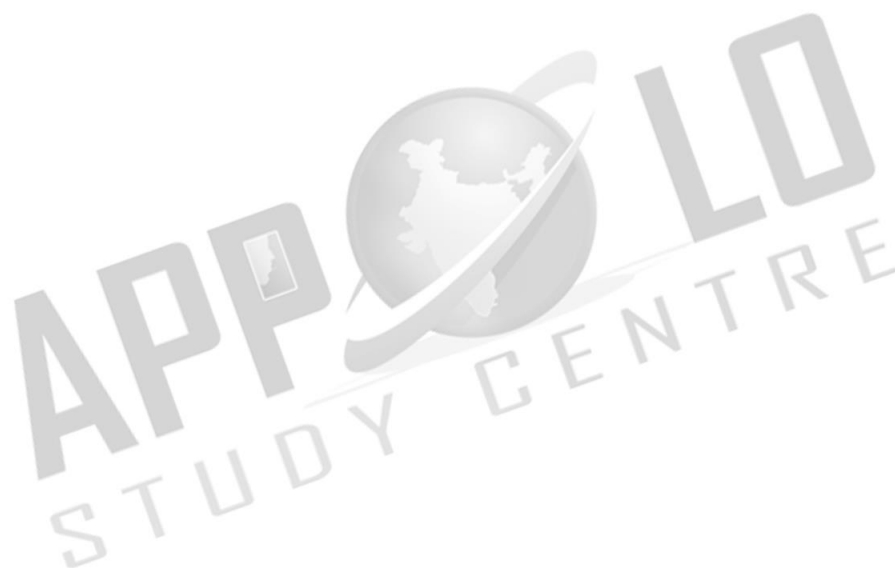
- **The Reserve Bank may trigger fresh floatation of market loans when the Government of India utilises 75 per cent of the WMA limit**

- **The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has increased the entry age for the National Pension System (NPS) from 65 years to 70 years. Earlier the eligible age to invest in NPS was 18-65 years which has now been revised to 18-70 years.**

- **GST revenue remained above Rs 1 trillion marks for the second straight month in August at over Rs 1.12 trillion, 30 per cent higher than the collection in the year-ago period. The mop-up in August is, however, lower than Rs 1.16 trillion collected in July 2021.**

- **Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has chaired the 24th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).**
 - ✓ Finance Minister is the chairperson of FSDC. It must be noted that FSDC Sub-Committee is chaired by the Governor, RBI.
 - ✓ **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** is the apex level forum set up by the Government of India for strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development

- **The crypto industry in India** has the potential to add \$184 billion of economic value, in the form of investments and cost savings, by 2030, according to a report.
- **The report, entitled “Crypto Industry in India,”** was published by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) in conjunction with Binance-owned crypto exchange WazirX.
- **The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has marginally lowered India’s growth projection for the ongoing fiscal to 9.7%, a reduction of 20 basis points (bps). For FY23, OECD reduced India’s growth projection by 30 basis points to 7.9%.
- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has revised downwards India’s economic growth forecast for the current fiscal, 2021-22 (FY22) to 10 per cent. Earlier this was projected at 11 per cent.



RANKINGS

- India - has emerged as the third largest startup ecosystem in the world after the US and China, as per the Hurun India Future Unicorn List 2021
- Zilingo is the top unicorn in the ranking in India with funding of USD 310

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) has been adjudged the best higher educational institution in 2021 followed by Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (IISc) and IIT Bombay

- India will become 3rd largest importer by 2050
 - ✓ India could become the world's third-largest importer by 2050, according to a report released by the UK's Department of International Trade.
 - ✓ With a 5.9 per cent share of global imports by 2050, the country will become the third-largest importer, following China and the United States.
- 3rd edition of State Food Safety Index 2020-21
 - ✓ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri Mansukh Mandaviya has released the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s 3rd State
 - ✓ Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States across five parameters of food safety to ensure safe food for citizens.
 - ✓ Top States and UTs in Food Safety Index 2020-21
 - ✓ Among the larger states, Gujarat was the top ranking state, followed by Kerala (2nd) and Tamil Nadu (3rd).
- Amul, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) has dropped two places to rank 18th in Rabobank's 2021 Global Top 20 Dairy Companies list.
- Hurun Research Institute has released the Hurun India Future Unicorn List 2021, as per which India is the third-largest Unicorn/startup ecosystem in the world. The USA is on top followed by China on second. India has 51 unicorns according to the list.

INDEX

- India ranks 46th in Global Innovation Index 2021
 - ✓ India has been ranked at 46th place in the Global Innovation Index 2021 released by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

- Top 5 countries in Global Innovation Index 2021 rankings:

Rank	Country	Score
1 st	Switzerland	65.5
2 nd	Sweden	63.1
3 rd	United States of America	61.3
4 th	United Kingdom	59.8
5 th	Republic of Korea	59.3
46 th	India	36.4

APPOINTMENTS

- **B Venkatraman, distinguished scientist** - has been appointed as the Director of Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam.
- **CAG GC Murmu gets elected as ASOSAI chairman**
 - ✓ The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India GC Murmu on 7th September, was elected as the chairman of the assembly of Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for a period of three years from 2024 to 2027
- **Iqbal Singh Lalpura named chairman of National Commission for Minorities**
- Rebecca Grynspan becomes **first woman Secretary-General of UNCTAD**
- **Kasturirangan to lead syllabus panel**
 - ✓ 12-member steering committee given a tenure of 3 years to draft framework
 - ✓ The Centre has started the process to revise school textbooks by appointing former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman **K. Kasturirangan** as the head of a 12-member steering committee responsible for developing a **new National Curriculum Framework (NCF)**.
 - ✓ Dr. Kasturirangan also chaired the drafting committee for the National Education Policy, 2020 which recommended the development of a new NCF.
- **Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi has been appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocate in the 76th UN General Assembly.**

AWARDS

- **Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021** awardees have been announced, the winners will be formally awarded the Magsaysay Award during the November 28 event at the **Ramon Magsaysay Centre in Manila**.
- **List of awardees of Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2021:**
 - ✓ **Muhammad Amjad Saqib:** A visionary who founded one of the largest microfinance institutions in Pakistan, servicing millions of families.
 - ✓ **Firdausi Qadri:** A Bangladeshi scientist who has been instrumental in discovering vaccines that have saved millions of lives.
 - ✓ **Steven Muncy:** A humanitarian who has been helping the displaced refugees of Southeast Asia rebuild their lives
- **Namita Gokhale receives the 7th Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award**
 - ✓ Namita Gokhale won the 7th Yamin Hazari Woman of Substance Award in 2021.
- **Vinisha Umashankar**, studying at Class 10 in a private school in Tiruvannamalai, has won the prestigious **Children's Climate Prize last year** for designing the mobile ironing cart using solar panels to power a steam iron box rather than conventional charcoal
- **Indian climate activist Shyam Sundar Jyani gets prestigious UN Land for Life Award 2021**
 - ✓ Rajasthan-based climate activist **Shyam Sundar Jyani's** environment conservation concept '**Familial Forestry**' has won the 2021 United Nations Land for Life Award. This award was conferred by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- **Politician-writer M Veerappa Moily, Tamil writer Imaiyam and poet Arundhathi Subramaniam** - were among the 20 authors who received the Sahitya Akademi Award for 2020 at a ceremony on September
- **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship 2021**
 - ✓ English author Ruskin Bond, Hindi writer **Vinod Kumar Shukla**, and Malayalam literary critic M Leelavathy are among the eight writers who have been selected for the **prestigious Sahitya Akademi Fellowship 2021**.
 - ✓ The Fellowship is awarded to '**literary persons of outstanding merit**'.
- **Brigadier SV Sarasvati receives National Florence Nightingale Award 2020**
 - ✓ **Brigadier SV Sarasvati**, the Deputy Director-General of Military Nursing Service has been bestowed with the **National Florence Nightingale Award 2020**.

➤ **Winners of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize 2021 announced**

- ✓ The names of 11 scientists, who received the country's highest science award **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize** for science and technology 2021 were announced on 26 September 2021.
- ✓ The prize is given to Indian scientists below the age of 45 for outstanding research in seven fields—Biology, Chemistry, Environment Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine, and Physics.

Here is the list of 11 scientists awardees:

➤ **Biological Sciences category:**

- ✓ **Dr Amit Singh**, department of microbiology and cell biology, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
- ✓ **Dr Arun Kumar Shukla**, department of biological sciences and bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur.

➤ **Chemical sciences category:**

- ✓ Two researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru, **Dr Kanishka Biswas** from the International Centre of Materials Science and **Dr T Govindaraju**, from the Bio-organic Chemistry Laboratory, announced as recipients.

➤ **Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences category:**

- ✓ **Dr Binoy Kumar Saikia** from Coal and Energy Research Group, CSIR North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat, was named recipient.

➤ **Engineering sciences category:**

- ✓ **Dr Debdeep Mukhopadhyay**, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, received the award under the engineering sciences category.

➤ **Mathematical sciences category:**

- ✓ **Dr Anish Ghosh**, school of mathematics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.
- ✓ **Dr Saket Saurabh**, The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, were announced winners.

➤ **The 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award:**

- ✓ **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, former United Nations under-secretary-general and executive director of UN Women.
- ✓ She has been honoured for fighting for **gender equality and her continued advocacy to address the Covid-19 pandemic's disproportionate impact on women and girls.**
- ✓ This award recognises a leader who has driven progress on a global scale toward achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs).

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

- ✓ She has been in charge of COVID-19 positive pregnant women's deliveries as well as infant care.

- **The Golden Rock Railway Workshop (GOC)**, Tiruchchirappalli has bagged 22nd National Award for Excellence in Energy Management from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for having adopted and implemented various energy conservation measures.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

- - 'Translating Myself and Others' - Jhumpa Lahiri
- "The Fractured Himalaya" Nirupama Rao

My Life in Full: Work, Family, and our Future. - Indra Nooyi

"Jungle Nama" - Amitav Ghosh

Human Rights and Terrorism in India' - Subramanian Swamy

PERSONALITIES

- **India's Sherpa for G - 20.**
 - ✓ Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal - has been appointed as India's Sherpa for G20.
- **100 most influential people of 2021'**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi,
 - ✓ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and
 - ✓ Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla - by TIME magazine.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** - has launched a two-day 'Lunar Science Workshop' to commemorate the completion of two years of operation of **Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft** across the moon's orbit.
- **SpaceX launches first all-tourist crew into orbit**
 - ✓ The crew of the Inspiration4, the first-ever orbital flight crewed entirely by tourists, is now officially in orbit, according to a Livestream from SpaceX.
 - ✓ The SpaceX rocket blasted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center.
 - ✓ The passengers will now spend three days aboard their 13-foot-wide Crew Dragon capsule in orbit at a 350-mile altitude.
- **For the first time in the history of space tourism, Elon Musk's American Aerospace Company, SpaceX** - launched the Inspiration4 mission on September
- **On September 22, the World Health Organisation (WHO)** - released its revised air quality guidelines for six key pollutants, making them more stringent compared to the standards set in 2005.
 - ✓ The government has a dedicated National Clean Air Programme that aims for a 20% to 30% reduction in particulate matter concentrations by 2024 in 122 cities, keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.
 - ✓ These are cities that do not meet the NAAQS when calculated from 2011 to 2015.
- **NASA launches Landsat 9 satellite to monitor Earth's landscape**
 - ✓ NASA successfully launched Landsat 9, a powerful satellite built to monitor the Earth's land surface on 27 September 2021.
 - ✓ Landsat 9, a joint NASA and US Geological Survey (USGS) mission, lifted off on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Vandenberg's Space Launch Complex 3E, California.
 - ✓ It will help make science-based decisions on key issues like water use, wildfire impacts, etc.
- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** has launched 'Project Udaan', a language translator, to break the language barrier in education, which hampers the flow of messages.

The world's largest plant designed to suck carbon dioxide out of the air and turning it into rock started running in Iceland. The plant, named Orca, after the Icelandic word "orka" meaning "energy",

SPORTS

- ✓ India finished their campaign at the **Tokyo Paralympics 2020** with an all-time high of 19 medals which includes five gold, eight silver, and six bronze.
- ✓ This is the best medal tally for India a single edition of the Paralympic Games. India is placed at 24th position in the overall medal tally out of a total of 162 nations

➤ **Indian Flag Bearers:**

- ✓ Javelin thrower **Tek Chand** was the flag bearer at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Paralympics.
- ✓ Shooter **Avani Lekhara** was India's flag-bearer at the closing ceremony.

➤ **India at Paralympics 2020:**

- ✓ India sent its biggest ever contingent of **54 para-athletes** at Tokyo Paralympics to compete across as many as 9 sporting disciplines at the Games.
- ✓ Prior to this, India had won a total of **12 Paralympics medals**, since making its first appearance at the Paralympics in 1968, till the 2016 Rio.
- ✓ The Indian theme song of Paralympics 2020 "**Kar de kamaal tu**". The composer and singer of the song is Sanjeev Singh, a Divyang cricket player from Lucknow.

List of Indian Paralympic Medal Winners

Event	Sportsperson	Medal
Women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event	Avani Lekhara	Gold
F64 Javelin Throw	Sumit Antil	Gold
Badminton men's singles SL3	Pramod Bhagat	Gold
P4 mixed 50m air pistol SH1	Manish Narwal	Gold
Badminton men's singles SH6 -final	Krishna Nagar	Gold
Class 4 Table Tennis	Bhavina Patel	Silver
Badminton men's singles SL4 event	Suhas Yathiraj	Silver
T64 High Jump	Praveen Kumar	Silver

T42 High Jump	Mariyappan Thangavelu	Silver
F46 Javelin Throw	Devendra Jhajharia	Silver
F56 Discus Throw	Yogesh Kathuniya	Silver
T-47 High Jump	Nishad Kumar	Silver
P4 mixed 50m air pistol SH1	Singhraj Adana	Silver
F46 Javelin Throw	Sundar Singh Gurjar	Bronze
Men's 10m air pistol SH1	Singhraj Adhana	Bronze
T42 High Jump	Sharad Kumar	Bronze
R8 Women's 50m Rifle 3P SH1	Avani Lekhara	Bronze
Men's individual recurve archery	Harvinder Singh	Bronze
Badminton men's singles SL3	Manoj Sarkar	Bronze

➤ **US Open Tennis**

S.No	Category	Winner	Runner Up
1	Men's Singles	Daniil Medvedev	Novak Djokovic
2	Women's Singles	Emma Raducanu	Leylah Annie Fernandez
3	Men's Doubles	Ram / Salisbury	Jamie Murray/ Bruno Soares
4	Women's Doubles	Stosur / Zhang	Coco Gauff/ Mc Nally
5	Mixed Doubles	Krawczyk/ Sali Sbury	Giuliana Olmos/ Marcel o Arevalo

- **India's Pankaj Advani** won the Asian Snooker Championship 2021 by defeating Amir Sarkhosh. He has won this title for a second consecutive time. He is the winner of the last Asian Snooker Championship held in 2019
- **India's R Raja Rithvik** became chess **Grandmaster** after he crossed the ELO Rating of 2500. The 17-year-old achieved this GM title in Vezerkepzo Grandmaster Chess

Tournament at Budapest, Hungary. He thus became the 70th Grandmaster from the country.

- **The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics unveiled its official motto,**
- ✓ **“Together for a Shared Future”,** during a ceremony at the city’s Capital Museum. The motto was chosen after a lengthy process that included a total of 79 different proposals.

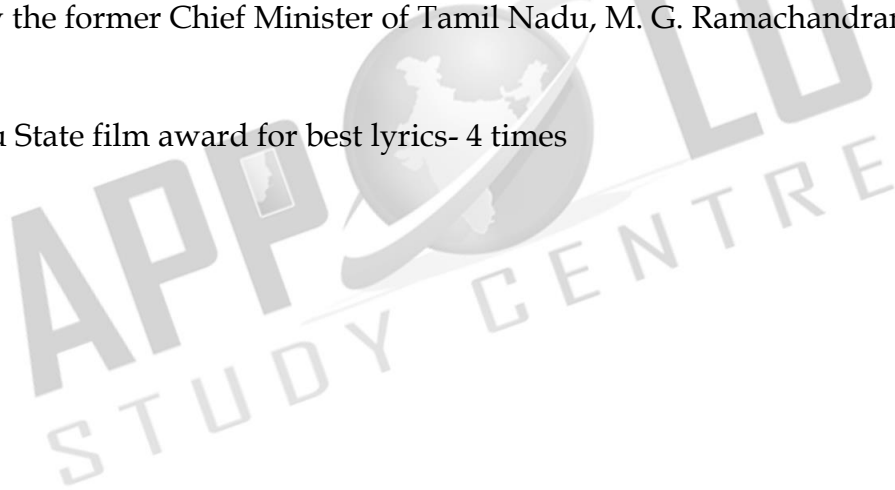
- **FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup to be Held in India in October 2022**

OBITUARY

- **Tamil scholar, poet and veteran film lyricist, Pulavar Pulamaipithan**
Pulavar Pulamaipithan (6 October 1935 – 8 September 2021)[1] was an Indian scholar, poet and lyricist was born in Irugur, Coimbatore, He served as Deputy Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council,[4][5] and was appointed "Arasavai Kavignar" (poet laureate) by the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M. G. Ramachandran.

Awards

Tamil Nadu State film award for best lyrics- 4 times



IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
September 1 - 7	National Nutrition Week 2021	The theme of the 2021 National Nutrition Week is "feeding smart right from start".
September 2	World Coconut Day	The theme of World Coconut Day 2021 is ' Building a Safe Inclusive Resilient and Sustainable Coconut Community Amid COVID-19 Pandemic & Beyond ' World Coconut Day
September 5	Teachers Day 2021 in India	Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan who was a philosopher and also a teacher and he made a lot of effort in order to contribute to the field of education
September 5	International Day of Charity	It was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012
September 8	International Literacy Day: 08 September	The theme of 55th International Literacy Day is Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide.
September 8	World Physical Therapy Day	-
September 9	Himalaya Day 2021	Theme - 'Contribution of Himalayas and our responsibilities.
September 9	Himalaya Diwas	The day is observed with the aim of conserving Himalayan ecosystem and region
September 9	World EV Day	Special awareness campaigns are organised globally to educate people about the benefits of electric vehicles World EV Day
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day	Theme 2021 - "Creating Hope Through Action"
September 14	Hindi Diwas or Hindi Day	
September 15	Engineers Day	
September 15	International Day of Democracy	Theme 2021 - "Strengthening democratic resilience in the face of future crises"

September 16	World Ozone Day	
September 17	Hyderabad Liberation Day	
September 18	World Water Monitoring Day	
September 18	World Bamboo Day	
September 21st	World Alzheimer's Day	The day aims to raise awareness about the stigma that runs around Alzheimer disease and related dementia
September 22	World Rhino Day	-
September 25	World Pharmacist Day	-
September 25	Antyodaya Diwas	"uplifting the poorest of the poor" or "rise of the last person".
September 27	World Tourism Day	"Tourism for Inclusive Growth"
September 28	World Rabies Day	The theme for the WRD in 2021 is 'Rabies: Facts, not Fear'

