

Awards and Honours

Recipient Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Jordan Clarkson	2021 Sixth Man of the Year	Utah Jazz guard Jordan Clarkson has won the 2020-21 Kia NBA Sixth Man Award for his contributions in a reserve role.
David Diop	International Booker 2021	David Diop has become the first French novelist to win the International Booker prize for translated fiction with <i>At Night All Blood Is Black</i> , his first novel translated into English.
Thomas Vijayan	Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021	Vijayan was adjudged as the overall winner of the competition from over 8,000 entries for Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021, which carries a grand prize of 1,500 pounds (Rs.1.5 lakh). Nature TTL is the world's leading online nature photography resource.
Arunachal Pradesh's Water Burial movie	Best film National Award on environment conservation at 67th National Films Awards 2021	The film, which is directed by independent filmmaker Shantanu Sen. Water Burial is produced by AM Television.
Sanjeev Sahai	Chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)	A search committee headed by V K Saraswat, Member (S&T), NITI Aayog, cleared the name of Sahai. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board is a statutory body in India.
Tsitsi Dangarembga	PEN Pinter prize 2021	Tsitsi Dangarembga, the Booker-shortlisted Zimbabwean writer who was arrested last year in Harare while protesting against corruption, has been awarded the PEN Pinter prize, praised for her "ability to capture and communicate vital truths even amidst times of upheaval".

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RS Sodhi	Asia Pacific Productivity Champion award	The Managing Director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul), R.S. Sodhi, was conferred with the regional award as Asia Pacific Productivity Champion from Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Tokyo, Japan.
Tillotama Shome	Best Actor award at UK Asian Film Festival	Indian actress Tillotama Shome has made the country proud by winning the Best Actor award at the 2021 UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF). Tillotama won the award for her role in the film Raahgir: The Wayfarers. The film has been directed by Goutam Ghose.
Environmental Organisation 'Familial Forestry'	UN Award	The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) organises the Land for Life Award every two years to recognize excellence and innovation in efforts towards land in balance.
Sumita Mitra	European Inventor Award	She was the first to have successfully integrated nanotechnology into dental materials to produce stronger and more aesthetically pleasing fillings.
KK Shailaja	CEU Open Society Prize for 2021	Former Health Minister of Kerala KK Shailaja, on June 17, 2021, was awarded the Central European University (CEU) Open Society Prize for 2021.
Jamsetji Tata	World's top philanthropist of last century	Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata who was the founder of Tata Group, has emerged as the topper of the list of EdelGive Hurun Philanthropists of Century.

NTPC	India's best employers among Nation-Builders 2021	It has been recognized as the 'Great Place to Work' for the 15th straight year by the Great Places to Work Institute. It has been ranked at 38th. It was ranked 47 last year.
Cochin International Airport	Honour in airport service quality	This recognition is awarded to those airports which, in the opinion of passengers, consistently delivered excellent services.
RK Sabharwal	Highest civilian award of Mongolia 'The Order of Polar Star by his excellency.	The President of Mongolia recognises the outstanding contribution made by him towards the establishment of the first-ever oil refinery in Mongolia.
P Sainath	Japan's Fukuoka Grand Prize	The award, established by Japan's Fukuoka city and the Fukuoka City International Foundation, is given to individuals and organisations for their work in preserving Asian culture.

Appointments

Name	Designation	Extra Information
Ravneet Singh	Deputy Chief of Naval Staff	Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1983 and specialized in Aviation. Throughout his illustrious Naval career, he has had a wide-ranging experience onboard diverse platforms.
Arun Kumar Mishra	Chairman - National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)	Arun Kumar Mishra took over as a Supreme Court Judge in 2014 and had retired from the apex court in September 2020.
Vikramjit Sen	Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) – Chairman	DMCRC is formed as per the mandate of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The move was done to bring together the broadcasters and OTT (over-the-top) platforms.
Adar Poonawalla	Magma Fincorp – Chairman	Magma Fincorp has appointed Adar Poonawalla as its chairman as part of a management overhaul following the Poonawalla-controlled Rising Sun Holdings acquiring a controlling stake in it.
RS Sodhi	Board of International Dairy Federation	The International Dairy Federation (IDF) has unanimously elected R S Sodhi, managing director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd or GCMMF that sells Amul branded products in India, to its board during the general assembly held on 1 June.
Pradeep Chandran Nair	Director General of the Assam Rifles	He has rich experience of Assam Rifles and the North East, having earlier served as an Inspector General and a Company Commander in

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		Assam Rifles, besides having commanded Assam Rifles battalions as a Brigade Commander.
Paresh B Lal	Whatsapp - Grievance Officer for India	WhatsApp has updated the details on its website for how to contact Mr Lal because, under the IT law, social media companies are required to display the names and other details of their grievance officers on their websites.
Dr Vinay K Nandicoori	Director at the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)	He is a well-known molecular biologist, and a scientist at the DBT-National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi.
Dr Patrick Amoth	Chair of WHO Executive Board	The announcement was made during the 149th session of the WHO Executive Board, on June 02, 2021, by the outgoing Chair Dr Harsh Vardhan.
Ranjitsinh Disale	World Bank Education Advisor	Ranjitsinh Disale has been appointed as the World Bank Education advisor, starting from June 2021 to June 2024. He is the first Indian to have been awarded the Global Teacher Award in 2020, will now be working on the Coach Project, launched by the World Bank in March 2021.
Abdullah Shahid	President of the 76th United Nations General Assembly (PGA)	Maldivian foreign minister, Abdullah Shahid was elected President of the 76th United Nations General Assembly (PGA) with an overwhelming majority.
Hitendra Dave	Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India	The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd. (HSBC) announced the appointment of Hitendra Dave as Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India subject to receipt of regulatory approval.

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Rajesh Pendharkar	Director General - Naval Operations	The Flag Officer is a specialist in Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and has served on frontline warships of the Navy as ASW Officer and later as the Executive Officer and Principal Warfare Officer of Guided Destroyer INS Mysore.
Anup Chandra Pandey	Election Commissioner of India	In the Election Commission, Pandey will have a little under three years in office and will retire in February 2024.
K Nagaraj Naidu	UN bureaucracy for a year – Lead	He was appointed for the duration of one-year tenure to lead the world body through its return to normalcy as countries strive to bring the pandemic under control.
Benedetto Vigna	Ferrari – CEO	Vigna currently serves as the president of STMicroelectronics’ Analog, MEMS and Sensor Group, and is a member of the company’s executive committee. Ferrari S.p.A. is an Italian luxury sports car manufacturer based in Maranello, Italy.
Debbie Hewitt	Football Association’s first chairwoman	England’s Football Association named corporate executive and former RAC chief, Debbie Hewitt as its first woman chair, ending months of speculation over Greg Clarke’s successor following his exit over inappropriate remarks.
Spoorthi Priya	Grievance officer for India – Facebook	Facebook has named Spoorthi Priya as its grievance officer for India, the company said on its website. This move comes close on the heels of the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines

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		and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, coming into force last month.
Nagraj Adiga	International Association of Ultrarunners Council	Adiga works closely with the Athletics Federation of India and with various Government bodies to promote health, fitness, and encourage budding sportspersons.
Rebecca Grynspan	Head United Nations Conference on Trade and development (UNCTAD)	She will be the first woman and Central American to lead Geneva-based organisation, UNCTAD. She was nominated as secretary-general of UNCTAD by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
Naftali Bennett	Prime Minister of Israel	49-year-old, Naftali Bennett has become new Prime Minister of Israel. He is a religious-nationalist and a multi-millionaire former tech entrepreneur who has also served as defence minister.
Akshay Kumar	MyLab - Brand ambassador	Bollywood superstar, Akshay Kumar has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of biotechnology company Mylab Discovery Solutions.
Ajai Puri	Chairman of the industry association for 2021-22.	Announcing the leadership for 2021-22, Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) said that Pramod Kumar Mittal, President of Reliance Jio Infocomm, will continue as Vice Chairman of the association.
Satya Nadella	Microsoft – Chairman	Microsoft Corp, named Chief Executive Officer, Satya Nadella as its new chairman. He took over as the software giant's CEO in 2014, succeeding Steve Ballmer.

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Ebrahim Raisi	Iran – President	Ebrahim Raisi has won the 2021 Iranian presidential election, winning 62 per cent of the vote with about 90 per cent of ballots counted.
Aashish Chandorkar	Director - India's World Trade Organisation's (WTO) mission	For the very first time, a private person has been appointed at the Mission. Aashish Chandorkar is the director of Bengaluru-based policy think tank Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research.
Raghuram Rajan, Esther Duflo	Tamil Nadu's economic advisory council to CM	The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to set up a five-member 'Economic Advisory Council to the Chief Minister' with leading economic experts across the world as its members.
Upasana Kamineni	WWF - Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes	Upasana Kamineni is a renowned businesswoman and Vice-Chairperson CSR of Apollo Hospitals and founder of URLife.
Pratima Murthy	Director - National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)	She was awarded the WHO Regional Director's Special Recognition Award on 'World No Tobacco Day 2021'.
Nikol Pashinyan	Armenia Prime Minister	Armenia's acting prime minister, Nikol Pashinyan, kept power in a parliamentary election that boosted his authority despite being widely blamed for a military defeat last year in the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.
Jasprit Bumrah	Brand ambassador OnePlus	The partnership with Bumrah reiterates the brand philosophy of 'Never Settle' and the company's pursuit towards perfection.

Banking and Finance

India, ADB sign agreement to support preparation of road upgradation project in Sikkim

India signed a \$2.5 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank on June 3, 2021 to support preparation and design activities to upgrade major district roads in Sikkim.

The Sikkim Major District Road Upgradation Project aims to help improve connectivity to important towns, rural areas, and pilgrimage and tourist destinations in the northeastern state.

Bharti AXA Life in bancassurance pact with Shivalik Small Finance Bank

Private life insurer Bharti AXA Life Insurance has entered into a bancassurance partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank for the distribution of its life insurance products through the bank's pan-India network of branches.

This alliance is a part of the bank's various measures towards financial inclusion and acceleration of wealth creation for its customers.

ICICI Bank Became 2nd Globally to offer 'SWIFT gpi Instant' facility

ICICI Bank has announced that it has tied up with SWIFT to offer a facility that helps overseas partner banks to send instant remittances on behalf of their customers to the beneficiary in India. The beneficiary gets the credit to the bank account instantly.

GST collections at Rs 1.03 lakh crore for May

The goods and service tax collections for May clocked Rs 1,02,709 crore, making it the eighth straight month of collections crossing the Rs 1 lakh crore mark.

The collections have been 65% higher than the GST revenues in the same month, despite many states being under lockdown due to the Covid pandemic.

SBI launches Kavach Personal Loan for Covid-19 patients

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a collateral-free "Kavach Personal Loan" to enable its customers to meet medical expenses of self and family members for Covid treatment.

Under this scheme, customers can avail of loans up to ₹5 lakhs at an effective interest rate of 8.5 per cent per annum for 60 months, which is inclusive of three months moratorium.

ADB inks USD 484 million loan with GoI to upgrade road network in Tamil Nadu

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a \$484 million loan, to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.

The project is key to providing seamless road connectivity across industrial clusters, transport gateways and consumption centres, and help reduce logistics and production costs for CKIC's targeted industries to boost their competitiveness.

LIC introduces Technology Platform 'e-PGS'

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched a centralized web-based workflow-based IT platform called "e-PGS".

The new technology platform, e-PGS, has been designed to provide a centralized collection and payment accounting with a high level of bank integration. It has been designed to provide very innovative features of seamless and integrated banking with automatic reconciliations.

World Bank Approves USD125 million financial support for Kerala

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a \$125 million support for the 'Resilient Kerala Program' to help the state in preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, disease outbreaks, and pandemics.

The \$125 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a final maturity of 14 years including a grace period of six years.

India and World Bank signs USD 32 million loan for Mizoram

The Government of India, along with the Government of Mizoram has signed a \$32 million loan agreement with World Bank for Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project.

The project aims to improve the management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram, with a focus on the benefit of under-served areas and vulnerable groups.

Kotak Mahindra Bank launches 'Pay Your Contact' service

Kotak Mahindra Bank has announced the launch of 'Pay Your Contact' the new feature that enables its customers to send money or make payments to any of their contacts across all payment apps simply by the beneficiary's mobile number.

The 'Pay Your Contact' service is available on the lender's mobile banking app and uses the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform.

SEBI Reconstitutes Takeover Panel

Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reconstituted its Takeover Panel. The takeover panel looks into application that seeks exemption from mandatory open offer which as acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders.

N Venkatram MD and CEO of Deloitte India has been appointed as the new member of Takeover Panel.

SBI General Insurance and IDFC First Bank tie-up for bancassurance

SBI General Insurance, one of the leading general insurance companies in India, has signed a corporate agency agreement with IDFC FIRST Bank for the distribution of non-life insurance Solution.

Through this agreement, SBI general insurance will access the IDFC first bank's larger customer base resulting in wider penetration of its insurance products through the latter's digital-first approach.

Indian Affairs

IFFCO introduces world's first 'Nano Urea' for farmers across world

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has introduced the world's first Nano Urea Liquid for farmers across the world.

According to an official statement issued by IFFCO, the world's first Nano Urea Liquid was introduced in its 50th annual general body meeting held in the online-offline mode in India.

RDSO Becomes First Standards Body to Join 'One Nation, One Standard' Scheme

Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), which sets standards for the Indian Railway Sector, has become the first standards body in the country to join the 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme of the central government.

The RDSO, the sole R&D wing of the Railways Ministry, has now been recognised as a 'Standard Developing Organisation' by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), for a three years period.

WHO names Covid-19 variants first found in India as 'Kappa' and 'Delta'

The UN health agency, World Health Organisation (WHO), has given easy-to-say labels to two variants of the Covid-19, first found in India.

The two variants are B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2. The B.1.617.1 variant of the Covid 19 has been named as 'Kappa' while the B1.617.2 variant is named as 'Delta.'

RDSO- India's First Standard Developing Organization

Research Design & Standards Organization (RDSO) wing of Indian railways has become India's first institution to be declared as Standard Developing Organization (SDO).

Standard Development Organisation tag was given under "One Nation One Standard" mission of Bureau of Indian Standards.

India's first International Maritime Cluster to come up at GIFT City

Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) will set up the country's first international maritime services cluster at GIFT City.

The maritime cluster will be developed as a dedicated ecosystem comprising ports, shipping, logistics services providers and government regulators, all present in the same geographic vicinity — GIFT City. GIFT City is India's first operational smart city and international financial services.

Government announces to set up 5 'Divyangta Khel Kendras'

The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot on June 20, 2021, announced the setting up of 5 Divyangta Khel Kendras in various parts of the country.

The Minister was addressing the ‘Samajik Adhikarita Shivir’ for the distribution of aids and assistive devices to Divyangjan under the ADIP (Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances) scheme in Gujarat.

India’s official Olympic theme song ‘Lakshya Tera Samne Hai’ released

Ahead of the Tokyo Games, the official Olympic theme song for the Indian contingent was launched. Mohit Chauhan has composed and sung the song titled “Lakshya Tera Samne Hai”. The Games will open on July 23 and over 100 Indian athletes have qualified for the event so far.

Centre launches e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched ‘itat e-dwar’, the e-filing portal of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) on June 25, 2021.

The portal will enable the online filing of appeals, applications and documents by various parties.

Sehwag launches cricket coaching website ‘Cricuru’

Indian star cricketer Virender Sehwag has launched an experiential learning portal for Cricket coaching named CRICURU.

CRICURU is India’s first AI-enabled coaching website, to offer a personalised learning experience for the younger players. The website can be accessed at www.cricuru.com

Patiala to host Indian Grand Prix 4

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI), announced that the Indian Grand Prix 4 will be held on June 21 at the National Institute of Sports in Patiala.

The decision to host the domestic events was made to give Indian athletes the maximum chance to qualify for Tokyo.

India’s star sprinters Dutee Chand & Hima Das are expected to participate in the fourth Indian GP of 2021. National Inter-State Athletics Championships will be held at the same venue from June 25.

Weyan village in Bandipora, India’s first to inoculate all adults

Weyan, a village in district Bandipora (J&K) has become the first village in the country, where the entire population above 18 years has been vaccinated.

The vaccination in Weyan village was covered under the J&K model, a 10-point strategy to inoculate everyone who is eligible for the shots at a faster pace.

IIT Roorkee prof bags NSG award for ‘blast-resistant’ helmet

Shailesh Govind Ganpule, an assistant professor at the mechanical and industrial engineering department (MIED), was conferred the award with the ‘NSG Counter-IED and Counter-Terrorism Innovator Award 2021’ for developing a “blast-resistant” helmet.

This was the second edition of the annual award by NSG. Ceremony held at the National Security Guard (NSG) campus in Maneswar, near Gurgaon.

World’s first-ever genetically modified rubber planted in Assam

In Assam, the world’s first genetically modified (GM) rubber plant has been planted by Rubber Board, at the board’s farm in Sarutari near Guwahati. The GM rubber sapling was developed at the Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), in Puthuppally, Kottayam, Kerala.

Asia’s longest high-speed track for automobiles inaugurated in India

Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Prakash Javadekar on June 29, 2021 inaugurated NATRAX- the High-Speed Track(HST) for automobiles in Indore. The track is the longest such track in Asia and world’s fifth-longest.

The high-speed track has been developed in an area of 1000 acres of land. It is a one-stop solution for all sorts of high-speed performance tests for the widest categories of vehicles ranging from 2 wheelers to heavy tractor-trailers.

Cabinet Affairs

Cabinet approves MoC between India & Japan on Sustainable Urban Development

Union Cabinet approved Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on Sustainable Urban Development between India and Japan by suspending the existing MoU of 2007 on Urban Development.

To implement and strategize programmes on cooperation under MoC, a Joint Working Group (JWG) will be constituted. JWG will meet once in a year in Japan as well as in India, alternately. Cooperation under MoC will continue for a period of 5 years, which can be auto-renewed for 5 years at a time.

Cabinet approves Model Tenancy Act

Union Cabinet has approved “Model Tenancy Act” for circulation to all States and Union Territories for adaptation by enacting fresh legislation or amending existing rental laws as required.

Approved act will help in rebuilding legal framework on rental housing in India which in turn boost overall growth. Act was passed with the aim of creating a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive rental housing market.

Union Cabinet approves SCO Agreement on Mass Media cooperation

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 2, 2021, approved the signing and ratification of an Agreement on ‘Cooperation in the field of Mass Media’ between all the Member States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The Agreement on ‘Cooperation in the field of Mass Media’ between all the Member States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization was signed in June 2019.

Union Cabinet approves MoC between India-Japan on urban development

The Union Cabinet has approved a memorandum of cooperation between India-Japan in the field of sustainable urban development.

A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on Sustainable Urban Development has been signed between the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Government of Japan.

Cabinet approves increase in MSP for Kharif crops in interest of farmers

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the Union Cabinet approved an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kharif crops in the interest of the farmers. He said the increase in the MSP of many crops will increase the income of farmers and will also improve their standard of living.

Cabinet approves Deep Ocean Mission of Ministry of Earth Sciences

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the implementation of “Deep Ocean Mission”.

This mission is proposed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), to explore the deep ocean for resources and develop deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.

Cabinet approves Inland Vessels Bill

The Union Cabinet on June 16, 2021, approved the Inland Vessel Bill 2021 that will streamline and regulate inland vessels running in the country, said Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The Inland Vessels Bill 2021 will replace Inland Vessels Act, 1917.

Cabinet approves merger of CWC-CRWC

Union Cabinet has approved merger of Central Railside Warehouse Company (CRWC) and its holding enterprise Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) in order to unify similar functions of both the companies. Companies were merged with the aim of improving efficiency and increase financial savings.

State Related Affairs

Madhya Pradesh Government launches 'Ankur' scheme

In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan government has launched a scheme named 'Ankur' under which citizens will be awarded for planting trees during monsoon.

Citizens taking part in this initiative will be given the Pranvayu Award, to ensure public participation in the programme.

Ladakh launches YounTab scheme

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur, launched the YounTab scheme for students. Under the scheme, about 12,300 tablets were distributed among them in Leh.

It is an initiative of Department of School Education. It was launched with the technical support of Information Technology Department.

Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani launches Agricultural Diversification Scheme 2021

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on June 22, 2021, e-launched the Agricultural Diversification Scheme 2021.

The scheme will benefit Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana farmers in tribal areas while making agriculture sustainable and profitable in tribal areas in Gujarat.

Odisha CM launches 'Ashirbad' for education and health of Covid orphans

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced a new scheme 'Ashirbad' for the education, health and maintenance of Covid orphans.

The Chief Minister announced that Rs 2500 per month will be deposited in the bank accounts of family members who have taken the responsibility for the children after the death of their parents.

Goa becomes first state to go rabies free

Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant announced that Goa has become the first state in the country to be Rabies free. CM informed that not a single case of rabies had been found in the state since the last three years. The team of mission rabies had been very effectively doing its job and had been also conducting vaccination for dogs.

Kerala launches 'Knowledge Economy Mission'

Kerala government has launched 'Knowledge Economy Mission' to boost job prospects in the state by supporting knowledge workers. The initiative was announced in State Budget on June 4. It was being spearheaded by Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC) and they will submit a comprehensive project report before July 15.

Raimona forest reserve named Assam's sixth national park

Raimona forest reserve in western Assam's Kokrajhar district was notified as Assam's sixth national park on the occasion of the World Environment Day on June 5, 2021.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the state government has decided to upgrade Raimona Sanctuary in BTR (Bodoland Territorial Region) to a national park.

Bengaluru international airport achieves net energy neutral status

The Kempegowda International Airport here has achieved net energy neutral status in the Financial Year 2020-21 as part of its sustainability goals.

Bengaluru international airport (BIAL) has been able to save nearly 22 lakh units of energy in the Financial Year 2020-21, enough to power nearly 9,000 houses for a month.

Haryana CM announces creating 'Oxi-van' in Karnal

Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar, announced to create of 80 acres of 'Oxi-van' (a forest) in the Karnal district. It was announced on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, 2021. Oxi-van will consist of 10 types of forests.

On the occasion, highlighting the importance of trees and encouraging promotion, protection, planting of trees Haryana Government launched four important schemes:

Assam gets its seventh national park with Dehing Patkai

The Assam Government has decided in its recent cabinet meeting to declare Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary as the 7th National Park of the state.

The newest national park, popularly known as Dehing Patkai Rain Forest, has unique floral and faunal diversity, which was recognized by the state government in 2004 when 111.19 square kilometres of the area was notified as Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary.

Telangana AI Mission launched 'Revv Up'

Telangana government has launched the Telangana AI Mission (T-AIM) powered by Nasscom and as part of the T-AIM, an accelerator programme called "Revv Up" has been launched to enable and empower AI startups.

The programme that will begin its first cohort in July is another step towards making Telangana and Hyderabad a global destination for AI and other emerging technologies.

Bihar government launches 'Mukhya Mantri Udyaymi Yojana'

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has launched two ambitious schemes christened as the 'Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyaymi Yojna' and the 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyaymi Yojana'.

Both the schemes launched to promote entrepreneurship among youth and women of all sections under the state's 'Mukhya Mantri Udyami Yojana scheme. The schemes were promised by the chief minister during the 2020 Bihar elections.

Delhi Govt launched Mukhyamantri Covid-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana

Delhi government has launched "Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana" to provide financial assistance to the families who lost a member due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to notification by Social Welfare Department, Rs 50,000 ex-gratia will be provided to every family that has lost a member amid a pandemic.

M.P. to launch 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan'

Madhya Pradesh will launch 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan' to raise awareness among people on covid-19 pandemic.

Under the campaign, college teachers and about 16 lakh students will be made aware of covid-19 infection by teaching them Covid appropriate behaviour and vaccination.

Raja Parba- Odisha's Famous Festival celebrated

Raja Parba festival celebrated in Odisha. It is a 3-days unique festival in which the onset of monsoon and the earth's womanhood is celebrated by the state. It is believed that during this time the Mother Earth or Bhudevi undergoes menstruation. The fourth day is the day of the 'purification bath'. During 3 days, women don't work.

Odisha becomes only state to have all three crocodile species

Odisha has become the only state to have all three kinds of crocodile species in its Mahanadi River. The three kinds of species include reptile freshwater Ghadials, muggers and saltwater crocodiles.

Andhra Pradesh introduces SALT programme

Andhra Pradesh has started a Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) programme to transform foundational learning in government schools for which the World Bank has approved a loan of 250 million dollars.

The main objectives of the programme are strengthening foundation schools and providing training and skill development to teachers. Andhra Pradesh's public school education system has more than 40 lakh children and nearly 2 lakh teachers.

International Affairs

China reports first human case of H10N3 bird flu

A 41-year-old man in China's eastern province of Jiangsu has been confirmed as the first human case of infection with the H10N3 strain of bird flu, China's National Health Commission (NHC).

The man, a resident of the city of Zhenjiang, was hospitalised on April 28 after developing a fever and other symptoms. He was diagnosed as having the H10N3 avian influenza virus.

Solar-Powered Bitcoin Mining facility launched in U.S.

As per owner of Twitter, Jack Dorsey, his payments venture Square will partner with blockchain technology firm Block-stream Mining in a bid to build an open-source, solar-powered bitcoin mining facility in United Nations.

Oman to host inaugural FIH Hockey5s World Cup in 2024

Oman has been named as the host of the inaugural International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey5s World Cup.

The FIH said the men's and women's events will take place in Oman's capital city Muscat in January 2024. The governing body said its Executive Board named Oman as host, after a recommendation from the organisation's Events Bidding Task Force.

El Salvador: First country to formally adopt bitcoin as legal tender

El Salvador has become the first country to formally adopt bitcoin as legal tender. Proposal to legalise cryptocurrency was put forward by President Nayib Bukele which was later approved by Congress.

Israel will become the World's First Mask-Free Country from June 15

Israel will become the world's first mask-free country in the Corona period. Here the rule of applying masks in closed places will end from June 15. This was announced by Israel's Health Minister Yuli Edelstein. The rule of applying masks outside has already been abolished in the country.

NATO leaders declare China a global security challenge

NATO leaders declared that China poses a constant security challenge and is working to undermine global order. This is a message in sync with US President Joe Biden's efforts to get allies to speak out with a more unified voice against China's trade, military and human rights practices.

UAE, Brazil, Albania, Gabon, Ghana elected to UNSC

UN Security Council elected Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, and UAE as non-permanent members for the 2022-23 term. All five countries, elected unopposed, will begin their term from 1 January 2022.

The election for the non-permanent members of the Security Council is held through secret ballot and candidates require a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly to get elected.

UK and Australia agreed on historic free trade agreement

A new free trade agreement with the United Kingdom will deliver more Australian jobs and business opportunities for exporters, bringing both countries closer together in a changing strategic environment.

Prime Ministers Scott Morrison and Boris Johnson have agreed on the broad outlines of an Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

World's third largest diamond unearthed in Botswana

Debswana Diamond Company on June 1, 2021, found the world's third-largest diamond in the Jwaneng mine in Botswana, South Africa. Botswana is Africa's largest producer of diamonds.

The stone weighing 1,098 carats was presented to President Mokgweetsi Masisi two weeks later of unearthing it.

Turkey, Azerbaijan begin joint military drills in Baku

Turkey and Azerbaijan have begun joint military drills "Mustafa Kemal Atatürk – 2021" in Baku, deploying tanks, helicopters and drones in an effort to improve the two countries' combat interoperability. The exercises involve up to 600 personnel in an effort to improve the allies' combat interoperability.

Philippines included in FATF grey list

Philippines has been included in the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). FATF has released its grey list of jurisdictions that will be subjected to increased monitoring. In addition to the Philippines, Haiti, Malta, and South Sudan have also been added to the grey list.

Now, these jurisdictions will be required to submit progress reports to the FATF thrice a year. The Philippines was removed from the blacklist of FATF in 2005. It was previously included in FATF's blacklist in 2000.

Foreign Relation

US to hand over three MH-60 ‘Romeo’ multi-role choppers to India

The Indian Navy is set to receive its first set of multi-role helicopters as America is set to hand over three MH-60 Romeo helicopters to the force in the United States in July.

The first batch of Indian pilots has also reached the US for training on the helicopters which would be arriving in India next year in July.

India elected to United Nations Economic and Social Council for 2022-24 term

India has been elected to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the six main organs of the United Nations, for the 2022-24 terms.

The Economic and Social Council of 54 members is at the heart of the United Nations system for advancing the three dimensions of sustainable development- economic, social, and environmental.

India, US launch Hydrogen Task Force

India and the United States jointly launched a hydrogen task force under their Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) to boost India’s energy security efforts on June 17, 2021. This was informed by US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

The US-India Hydrogen Task Force was launched by the United States Department of Energy, Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the USISPF.

India, Japan conduct bilateral naval exercise in Indian Ocean

Ships of the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) participated in a joint naval exercise at the Indian Ocean to realize “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).

“JS KASHIMA (TV3508) and JS SETOYUKI (TV3518) conducted a bilateral exercise with INS KULISH (P63) at the Indian Ocean. Naval cooperation between India and Japan has increased in scope and complexity over the years.

India, Fiji sign MoU on cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors

India and Fiji on June 22, 2021, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of agriculture and the allied sectors.

The agreement between the two countries was signed by the Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and the Minister of Agriculture, Waterways, and Environment, Fiji, Dr. Mahendra Reddy during a virtual meeting.

India-Bhutan: Tax Inspectors Without Borders Initiative

India and Bhutan have jointly launched the “Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)”. It has been launched for strengthening the tax administration of Bhutan.

It will focus on International Taxation and Transfer Pricing. TIWB programme aims to strengthen tax administrations among developing countries by transferring technical know-how and skills to their tax auditors and by sharing general audit practices & dissemination of knowledge products with them.

Ranks & Indices

Centre for World University Rankings 2021-22 announced

Centre for World University Rankings 2021-22 has announced, 19,788 institutions were ranked, and those that placed at the top made the global 2000 list.

Harvard University has topped the ranking globally followed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, University of Cambridge, and Oxford University respectively.

FIH world rankings: Indian men's team maintain 4th position

In Hockey, the Indian men's team maintained their fourth position while the women's team held to the ninth position in the latest International Hockey Federation world rankings.

Despite missing the European leg of the FIH Hockey Pro- League series in Great Britain, Spain and Germany in April and May, the Indian men's team maintained its fourth spot.

Wipro becomes third Indian IT firm to scale Rs 3 trillion market cap

Wipro has touched Rs 3 trillion in market capitalisation for the first time, becoming the third Indian IT firm to achieve the milestone after Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys.

The company won its largest deal ever from German retailer Metro and has seen deal wins of \$7.1 billion. India has a total of 13 listed firms that have crossed the Rs 3 trillion m-cap. Wipro now ranks 14th.

Reliance Industries is India's most valued company with a market capitalisation of ₹14.05 trillion, followed by Tata Consultancy Services Ltd and HDFC Bank with an m-cap of ₹11.58 trillion and ₹8.33 trillion, respectively.

Kerala retains top rank in Niti Aayog's 3rd SDG India Index 2020-21

Kerala has retained the top rank in Niti Aayog's 3rd edition of SDG India Index 2020-21, while Bihar has been adjudged as the worst performer.

The Index for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) evaluates the progress of states and union territories on social, economic and environmental parameters.

Kerala retained its rank as the top state with a score of 75. The third rendition of India's SDG Index was launched by Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar on 3rd June.

India slips two spots on 17th Sustainable Development Goals report

India's rank has slipped by two places from last year to 117 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 193 United Nations member states in 2015. India ranks below four South Asian countries: Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Punjab tops performance grading index in school education

Punjab, which has improved its showing from the 13th position it attained in 2018-19, topped the charts this time among all the states and union territories with a score of 929 out of 1,000, followed by Chandigarh (912) and Tamil Nadu (906).

Rhea Chakraborty topped ‘The Times 50 Most Desirable Women 2020’

The Times 50 Most Desirable Women 2020 list has been unveiled, and it features women under 40 across various fields.

Rhea Chakraborty has bagged the number 1 spot on Times Most Desirable Women 2020 list. She was in the news for most of last year due to the sudden demise of Sushant Singh Rajput and the controversy around his death.

Auckland tops Global Liveability Index 2021

New Zealand and Australian cities dominated the Global Liveability Index 2021 published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). Auckland has been ranked the best on liveability rankings due to the ability of New Zealand city to contain Covid-19 faster.

Japanese cities of Osaka and Tokyo grabbed second and fourth place and Adelaide, Australia spot 3rd place on EIU's Global Liveability Index 2021. Living conditions remained worst in the Syrian capital Damascus.

United States Tops Bitcoin Investment Gains in 2020

The US traders have benefited the most in Bitcoin Investment Gain in 2020, with a profit of \$4.1 billion, according to the latest report by Chainalysis, a blockchain analysis company based in Manhattan, New York.

Chinese traders stood second, with a profit of \$1.1 billion. India has been ranked at 18th spot with a profit of \$241 million, among the top 25 countries, in Bitcoin investment gains 2020.

DBS tops Forbes ‘World’s Best Banks’ list in India

DBS Bank has been named by Forbes in their list of World's Best Banks 2021. DBS was ranked #1 out of 30 domestic and international banks in India for the second consecutive year.

This is the third edition of the ‘World's Best Banks’ list by Forbes, conducted in partnership with market research firm Statista.

India: 4th largest Forex Reserves holder

India's forex reserves crossed \$600 mark for the first time and as on June 4, it stood at \$605 billion. With this, India equals Russia as the fourth largest reserve holder worldwide.

India's forex reserve was \$605.008 billion while for Russia it was \$605.2 billion. It took a year for reserves to rise by \$100 billion.

India ranks 67th in Coursera's Global Skills Report 2021

As per the 'Global Skills Report 2021' released by Coursera, India has been ranked 67th overall globally. The report reveals that, overall, India ranks 67th globally, with 38 per cent proficiency, with mid-rankings in each domain, 55th in business and 66th in both technology and data science.

Indian learners have high proficiency in digital skills like Cloud Computing (83%) and Machine Learning (52%) & 54% in Mathematical skills.

India ranked 14th in World Giving Index 2021

India has been ranked at 14th spot among 114 countries in the World Giving Index 2021, by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).

This rank is up from its 10-year global rank of 82. The World Giving Index ranking has been topped by Indonesia, followed by Kenya, Nigeria, Myanmar and Australia in the top five respectively.

India slips 12 spots to 55th position in Global Home Price Index

India has moved down 12 spots in the global home price index to 55th rank in Q1 2021 against 43rd rank in Q1 2020, with a decline of 1.6 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in home prices, Knight Frank, in its latest research report "Global House Price Index" – Q1 2021.

World Competitiveness Index 2021: Switzerland tops ranking, India ranked 43rd

India maintained its 43rd rank on the World Competitiveness Index 2021, compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD). Switzerland topped the 2021 rankings, followed by Sweden at 2nd place.

World Competitiveness Rankings List comprises a total of 64 nations. Innovation, digitalization, welfare benefits, and social cohesion were key to economic performance in the 2021 rankings.

India and Bhutan ink MoU for developing cooperation in the areas of Environment

India and Bhutan on June 18, 2021, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for developing cooperation between the two nations in the areas of the environment.

The agreement was signed virtually from the Indian side by the Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar and from the Bhutanese side by the Chairperson of the National Environment Commission Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji.

Ease of Living Index: Bengaluru 'most liveable' city

Bengaluru has been named as the most liveable city of India, in the Ease of Living Index 2020, released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

The Ease of Living Index 2020 is part of the report titled State of India's Environment 2021. Bengaluru is followed by Chennai, Shimla, Bhubaneswar, and Mumbai, as the top five best cities respectively.

India's Rank 120th in Sustainable Development Report 2021

According to the 6th Edition of 'Sustainable Development Report 2021 (SDR 2021)' released by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), India with a score of 60.1 has been placed at 120th rank out of 165 countries. Finland topped the Index followed by Sweden & Denmark.

India ranked 51st in terms of Money Deposited in Swiss Banks

According to 'Annual Bank Statistics of 2020' released by Swiss National Bank (SNB), the Central Bank of Switzerland. India with Swiss Francs (CHF) 2.55 billion (INR 20,706 Crore) has been placed at 51st place in the list of foreign clients' money in Swiss Banks during 2020.

The United Kingdom (UK) topped the list with CHF 377 billion, followed by the US (152 billion). India was ahead of countries like New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Hungary, Mauritius, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in terms of foreign clients' money in Swiss banks.

UN: India is 5th largest FDI recipient in 2020

As per UN report, India received USD 64 billion in foreign direct investments (FDI) in 2020. It has emerged the fifth largest recipient of FDI inflows across the world.

"World Investment Report 2021" was released by UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). As per the report, global FDI flows have been severely hit by covid-19 pandemic. FDI flow have decreased by 35 per cent in 2020 to USD 1 trillion from USD 1.5 trillion in 2019.

Bengaluru ranked as one of the Top 5 technology centers in Asia Pacific

Bengaluru has emerged as the top five technology centres in the APAC region while Hyderabad is ranked in the Top 10 list, a report by Colliers titled 'Growth Engines of Innovation: How Asia Pacific Technology Hubs are Reshaping Regional Real Estate'.

The report ranks the most attractive technology submarkets within major APAC cities, which should serve as a navigation tool for technology groups, as they plan their expansion.

Ashgabat world's most expensive city for foreign workers

Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan in Central Asia, has been named the world's most expensive city for foreign workers. The city topped the list in a 2021 cost-of-living survey by consultancy firm Mercer. Hong Kong was on the second position, followed by Beirut in Lebanon and Tokyo in Japan.

India ranks 10th in Cybersecurity Index

India has been ranked at 10th position in the cybersecurity index. India was ranked ahead of China (No. 33) and Pakistan (No. 79) in global cybersecurity ranking of countries.

India has improved its ranking from 47 to 10 in United Nation's ITU Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA). United States has been ranked first and is followed by United Kingdom.

China turns on world's 2nd-biggest hydropower dam

The Government of China officially turned on the first two generating units of the Baihetan Dam, the world's second-biggest hydroelectric dam, to start generating energy. The Baihetan Dam is set up on the Jinsha River, in southwestern China.

Business News

TCS opens its first European innovation centre in Amsterdam, Netherland

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will bring universities, businesses, startups and government together at its latest innovation hub in Amsterdam to help use digital technology to solve sustainability challenges.

It will focus on sustainability challenges faced by organisations and becomes the first in a network of hubs, known as TCS Pace Ports, in Europe.

Pharmany acquires Medlife to create India's largest online pharmacy

Pharmany has announced the acquisition of rival Medlife, thereby creating India's largest online pharmacy.

The deal will make PharmEasy the largest player in the domestic online pharmacy sector, with the combined entity set to serve 2 million customers a month. The deal values the stake of Medlife shareholders at \$250 million.

Microsoft launches the first ever Asia-Pacific cybersecurity council

The first Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council has been launched by Microsoft. It consists of policymakers and influencers from Brunei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The council aims to accelerate public-private partnerships in cybersecurity and share threat intelligence.

Bill Gates and EU pledge \$1 billion boost for green technology

The European Union and an energy investment programme founded by Bill Gates plan to raise up to \$1 billion to roll out the low-carbon technologies Europe is betting on to meet its climate change goals. The partnership would see Gates-founded Breakthrough Energy use private capital and philanthropic funds to match funding provided by the EU.

HeidelbergCement plans world's first CO2 neutral cement plant in Sweden

HeidelbergCement, the world's second-largest cement maker, plans to turn its Swedish factory in Slite into the world's first CO2-neutral cement plant by 2030 via carbon capture technology.

Following the planned retrofit, which will cost at least 100 million euros (\$122 million), the plant will be able to capture up to 1.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

BharatPe becomes ICC's official partner till 2023

Lending and digital payments startup, BharatPe has announced that it has inked a three-year-long deal to become an official partner with International Cricket Council (ICC).

As per the agreement, BharatPe will promote the association across broadcast and digital platforms, as well as execute in-venue brand activations at all the ICC events until 2023.

Google to build world's longest undersea cable to connect Latin America and the US

Alphabet's Google announced on June 9, 2021, that it will be building an undersea cable that will connect the United States, Uruguay, Brazil, and Argentina, to bolster the capacity of internet connection between these regions.

The undersea cable called Firminia, named after a Brazilian abolitionist and author Maria Firminia dos Reis, will be the longest cable in the world.

Facebook launches 'Report it, Don't share it!' initiative

Social media giant Facebook has launched a new initiative 'Report it, Don't share it!' that encourages people to report child abuse content on its platforms and not to share it.

The initiative 'Report it, don't share it' is in collaboration with civil society organisations like Aarambh India Initiative, Cyber Peace Foundation and Arpan.

Airtel, TCS partner for 5G network solutions

Bharti Airtel and Tata Group have announced a strategic partnership for implementing 5G network solutions for India, which will be available for commercial development from January 2022.

Tata Group has developed an O-RAN (open-radio access network)-based radio and non-standalone architecture/stand-alone architecture (NSA/SA) core and has integrated a totally indigenous telecom stack, leveraging the capabilities of the group and its partners.

Jio and Google Cloud to Collaborate on 5G Technology

Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited and Google Cloud are embarking on a comprehensive, long-term strategic relationship with a goal of powering 5G in enterprise and consumer segments nationwide.

In addition, Reliance will also take advantage of Google Cloud's scalable infrastructure thereby enabling its retail business to achieve better operational efficiency, modernize and scale for growth, and deliver better performance and experiences to customers.

NSDC And WhatsApp Launch "Digital Skill Champions Program"

The National Skill Development Corporation and WhatsApp announced an alliance to launch the Digital Skill Champions Program that aims to train India's youth on digital skills, in order to make them employment ready.

The partnership identifies two broad areas of collaboration viz., WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) and WhatsApp Business App Training sessions.

Microsoft Officially Launches 'Windows 11'

Microsoft officially launched its new Windows operating system ‘Windows 11’. It is being called as the “next generation” of Windows. The release comes nearly six year after the current latest Windows Operating System ‘Windows 10’ was launched in July 2015.

Amazon’s AWS Acquires Encrypted Messaging App Wickr

Amazon has acquired an American instant messaging app ‘Wickr’ to offer secure communications for businesses, government agencies, and individuals, who are moving to hybrid work environments, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It must be noted that Wickr offers the most secure, end-to-end encrypted, communication technology, with advanced security features, that are not available with traditional communications services across messaging, voice and video calling, file sharing, and collaboration.

Malaysia surpasses Indonesia to be India’s biggest crude palm oil exporter

Malaysia on June 22, 2021, surpassed Indonesia to become India’s biggest Crude Palm Oil (CPO) exporter in 2020-21. Last year, Indonesia imposed heavy taxes on exports of edible oil.

As per the data by the Solvent Extractors’ Association of India (SEA), a trade body of Indian vegetable oil refiners and traders, Malaysia’s palm oil exports to India surged 238 per cent to 2.42 million tonnes in the first seven months of 2020-21 marketing year started on November 1.

Defence News

Defence Ministry, Mahindra Telephonics sign contract for 11 Airport Surveillance Radars

The Defence Ministry signed a contract with Mahindra Telephonics Integrated Systems Limited, Mumbai on June 3, 2021 to procure 11 Airport Surveillance Radars with Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar for the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.

The procurement will be made by the Defence Ministry under the Buy and Make category at a cost of over Rs 323 crore. The Ministry stated that the signing of the contract is an achievement of the centre towards its Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Defence Ministry clears Indian Navy's mega submarine tender worth Rs 43,000

The Defence Acquisition Council chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on June 4, 2021, cleared the Indian Navy's Request for Proposal (RFP) for a mega submarine tender worth Rs 43,000 crore under Project P-75 India (P-75I) under the Strategic Partnership Model.

Indian Navy inducted three ALH MK III advanced light helicopters

The Indian Navy inducted three indigenously-built advanced light helicopters ALH MK-III in their fleet. These helicopters are built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited at the Indian Naval Station (INS) Dega in Visakhapatnam will be used for maritime reconnaissance and coastal security.

Russian navy building first fully stealth warship

Russia is building the first naval ship that will be fully equipped with stealth technology to make it hard to detect. The hull of the Mercury naval corvette dubbed project 20386 has already been built and the vessel is expected to be delivered to the navy next year. The warship will be armed with cruise missiles, anti-aircraft missiles and artillery.

Defence Minister Approves Budgetary Support of Rs 499 cr for innovations

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the budgetary support of Rs 498.8 crore for iDEX-DIO (Innovations for Defence Excellence – Defence Innovation Organisation) for the next five years.

The funds will be used to provide financial support to nearly 300 start-ups, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and individual innovators with a larger goal of ensuring self-reliance in the defence sector.

Shipping, Civil Aviation Ministries sign pact to develop seaplane services in India

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ministry of Civil Aviation on June 15, 2021, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development of seaplane services in India.

Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Civil Aviation attended the MoU signing held at the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

India- USA Navy Passage Exercise in Indian Ocean Region

The Indian Navy and the Air Force began a two-day passage exercise with U.S. Navy Carrier Strike Group (CSG) Ronald Reagan during its transit through the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The exercise aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship and cooperation by demonstrating the ability to integrate and coordinate comprehensively in maritime operations.

India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier to be commissioned in 2022

The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has informed that India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-I), is planned to be commissioned by 2022. Once commissioned, the carrier will be rechristened as INS Vikrant, in memory of India's first aircraft carrier.

Science & Technology

NASA announces Two Robotic Missions to Venus

American space agency, NASA, has announced its two new robotic missions namely Davinci+ and Veritas, to Venus to examine atmosphere and geological features on the planet.

Each of the missions have been awarded \$500m funding. They will be launched in between 2028 and 2030. Missions would provide a chance to investigate the planet Venus that haven't been provided in about 30 years

IIT Madras hosts Asia's first International Memory Studies Workshop

Indian Institute of Technology Madras' Centre for Memory Studies recently hosted virtually Asia's first International Memory Studies Workshop.

Indian Network for Memory Studies (INMS), the first national network in the field in Asia under the aegis of the International Memory Studies Association, Amsterdam.

ISRO to help development projects in Northeast through space technology

The Union Minister Jitendra Singh on June 9, 2021, informed that the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will be assisting the development projects in the Northeast.

The help will be provided by offering the optimum utilization of satellite imaging and other space technology for better accomplishments of infrastructural targets.

World's first wooden satellite to be launched in 2021

Artic Astronautics, a Finnish company will send the world's first wooden satellite into space by the end of 2021.

The wooden satellite named WISA Woodsat, designed and developed in Finland is a cube-shaped nanosatellite scheduled to be launched on a Rocket Lab's Electron rocket in New Zealand in November 2021.

Shenzhou-12: China to launch first human spaceflight with three men, first since 2016

A spacecraft of China will blast off from the Gobi Desert on a Long March Rocket in the coming days, ferrying 3 men to an orbiting space module for a three-month stay. It will be the first time that China will send humans into space in nearly 5 years.

Shenzhou-12, meaning 'Divine Vessel', will be the third of the 11 missions required to complete China's Space Station by 2022.

China plans First Manned MARS Mission in 2033

China has planned to send its first crewed mission to MARS in the year 2033. Manned MARS Mission will be launched with regular follow-up flights.

Mission will be launched with a long-term plan to build a permanently inhabited base on MARS and extract its resources. This ambitious plan will intensify a race with United States to put humans on MARS.

India successfully test fires subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay off Odisha coast

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' on June 24, 2021, from an Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha's Balasore. This was the eighth test flight of the missile. The first test flight of Nirbhay was held on 12 March 2013.

Nesher Ramla Homo: New early human discovered at cement site in Israel

Israeli researchers informed on June 24, 2021, that they have found bones belonging to a 'new type of early human' who was previously unknown to science. The latest discovery has shed new light on the course of human evolution.

DRDO successfully test fires enhanced Pinaka Rockets

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test fired an extended range version of "Pinaka" rocket. Test fire was carried at Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha on June 25.

DRDO successfully test-fires Agni-Prime missile off the coast of Odisha

As per the Government Sources, India on August 28, 2021, successfully carried out the test-firing of a new missile of the Agni series known as Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha.

Reportedly, India successfully carried out the test-firing of a new missile of the Agni Series known as Agni-Prime at 10.55 am on June 28, off the coast of Odisha. The new nuclear-capable missile is fully made up of composite material and it was a textbook launch.

Gaganyaan mission: ISRO to launch first uncrewed mission in December 2021

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has announced that it is 'putting extra work, extra hours' to achieve the launch target of the first uncrewed mission in December 2021 as a part of the human spaceflights programme 'Gaganyaan' due to disruption caused in the hardware delivery schedules during the first and second wave of COVID-19.

European Space Agency to launch first disabled astronaut in space

The European Space Agency has announced its plan to hire and launch the world's first physically disabled astronaut.

Several para-astronauts have applied for the role, ESA said. The space agency recently closed the decennial recruitment call for the 22-member space programme after it received 22,000 applicants. The Agency noted that it will work on gender balance as it received just 24 per cent of women applicants.

Books

A book title ‘Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966) authored by Vikram Sampath

Decorated historian and author Vikram Sampath has come out with the second and concluding volume of the book on the life and works of Veer Savarkar titled “Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966)”.

The book will hit the stands on July 26, 2021, under the publication of Penguin Random House India.

‘Home in the World’ Book: by Amartya Sen’s memoir

One of the world’s leading public intellectuals of our time, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has penned his memoir ‘Home in the World’. The book will be published in July by Penguin Random House. In this book, Sen shares how it was Rabindranath Tagore who gave him his name Amartya.

He also reminisces the conversations at Calcutta’s famous Coffee House and at Cambridge, and Marx’s, Keynes’ and Arrow’s ideas all of which shaped his views.

Cricketer Suresh Raina releases his autobiography ‘Believe’

Former Indian batsman, Suresh Raina has released his autobiography ‘Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me’. The book is co-authored by Bharat Sundareshan, Suresh Raina narrated the journey he has had for India and the golden word (Believe) from Sachin Tendulkar that he etched on his arm as a tattoo.

Amitav Ghosh’s new book ‘The Nutmeg’s Curse’

Jnanpith Awardee and renowned author Amitav Ghosh’s authored a book titled, ‘The Nutmeg’s Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis’. It is published by John Murray. The book talks about the history of the influence of colonialism on the world today, through the story of the nutmeg.

Arvind Gaur releases book ‘Habba Khatoon’ written by Kajal Suri

Theatre personality Arvind Gaur has released the book ‘Habba Khatoon’ written by Kajal Suri. The book ‘Habba Khatoon’ was Published by Sanjana Prakashan. Habba Khatoon, also known by the honorary title ‘The Nightingale of Kashmir’, was a Kashmiri poet and ascetic. She was the wife of Yousuf Shah Chak, the last Emperor of Kashmir.

Actor Will Smith announced his autobiography ‘Will’

Actor Will Smith, who revealed the title and cover of his upcoming autobiography “Will”. The book, to be published Nov. 9 by Penguin Press.

Will Smith is co-writing the book with author Mark Manson, and the cover is designed by New Orleans artist Brandan “BMike” Odums. Smith will also narrate the audiobook of Will from Penguin Random House Audio.

A book titled “Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story” by Sundeep Mishra

Journalist Sundeep Mishra’s book titled ‘Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story’ chronicles Chand’s journey with a detailed narrative of the gender-identity controversy that made her an iconic figure in Indian sport. The book was published by Westland Books.

A book titled “Policymaker’s Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, DC” by Kaushik Basu

A book titled “Policymaker’s Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, DC” authored by Kaushik Basu released soon.

This book charts the course of Kaushik Basu’s career over seven years, as he moved out of the cloisters of academe to the frenetic world of policymaking, first in India as Chief Economic Adviser to the Indian Government and after that as Chief Economist at the World Bank in Washington.

CJI NV Ramana release a book titled “Anomalies in Law and Justice”

Chief Justice of India Justice NV Ramana has released former Supreme Court judge RV Raveendran’s book “Anomalies in Law and Justice”. The book is an attempt to explain to the layman that the law and the legal system is still evolving and that it requires more critical thinking to resolve issues that have persisted in the system for a long time.

Sports

Name	Tournament Name	Extra Information
Sanjeet Kumar	Gold - Asian Boxing Championship	Sanjeet pulled off a massive upset as he defeated five-time Asian Championships medallist and Rio Olympic silver medalist Vassiliy Levit of Kazakhstan in a 3-2 split decision in the final of Asian Championships in Dubai to clinch the gold.
Novak Djokovic	83rd Career Title In Belgrade open	The Serbian superstar lost his serve three times in the first set before changing his game to defeat Slovakian qualifier and first-time ATP Tour finalist Alex Molcan 6-4, 6-3 in 88 minutes at the Novak Tennis Center.
Sergio Perez	Formula 1's Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Red Bull's Sergio Perez won a chaotic Azerbaijan Grand Prix with both Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton failing to finish.
Novak Djokovic	French open Men's Singles title	Novak Djokovic has won his 19th Grand Slam title in French open 2021 in Men's single category at Roland Garros in Paris.
Vinesh Phogat	Gold medal in Poland open – Wrestling	Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the gold medal in the 53 kg category at the Poland Open. It is her third title of the season. Earlier, She had won gold at the Matteo Pellicone event (March) and Asian Championship (April).
Max Verstappen	2021 French Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Netherlands-Red Bull) has won the 2021 French Grand Prix. This race is the seventh round of the 2021 FIA Formula One World Championship.
New Zealand	ICC World Test Championship	New Zealand defeated India to win the first ICC World Test Championship. New

		Zealand chased down the target of 139 to win the first-ever World Test Championship final with eight wickets in hand.
Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce	Second-fastest woman in history	Jamaican sprinter Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce became the second-fastest woman after she ran the 100 meters in 10.63 seconds at the JOA/JAAA's Destiny Olympic meet in Kingston held on June 5, 2021.
Max Verstappen	2021 Styrian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Netherlands-Red Bull) has won the 2021 Styrian Grand Prix. This is the fourth win of Verstappen in the 2021 Formula One season.
Cristiano Ronaldo	Becomes joint top-scorer in men's international football	Cristiano Ronaldo has become the joint-top scoring men's international player of all time. He is currently tied with Iran legend Ali Daei, who scored 109 times in 149 matches between 1993 and 2006.
Rahi Sarnobat	Gold medal in the 25m pistol event at the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)	Sarnobat's win on June 28 is India's first gold in 25m pistol event at the ISSF in 2021. Earlier in 2013, she won the gold medal in the 25m pistol event at the ISSF World cup that was held in Changwon, South Korea.
Deepika Kumari	3 Gold medal – World Archer championship	The 27-year-old from Ranchi, who had achieved the top spot for the first time in 2012, on Sunday claimed gold medals in three recurve events — women's individual, team and mixed pair.

Obituary News

Name	Associated Field
Budhadeb Dasgupta	Renowned film maker
Dingko Singh	Asian Games gold medal-winning Boxer
Siddalingaiah	Noted Kannada poet, playwright and Dalit activist
Radhamohan	Padma Shri winning noted Economist and Environmentalist
Surat Singh Mathur	Olympic participant
Dingko Singh	Asian Games Gold Medallist Boxer
Gottfried Bohm	Pritzker Prize Laureate
Sanchari Vijay	National Award winning-Kannada actor
Milkha Singh	Track legend
Kenneth Kaunda	Zambia's first president
John McAfee	Founder of McAfee antivirus software
Sivan	National Award-winning cinematographer and director

Important Days

Day	Date	Theme
World Milk Day	June 01	sustainability in the dairy sector with messages on nutrition
Global Day of Parents	June 01	
World Bicycle Day	June 03	
International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	June 04	
World Environment Day	June 05	Reimagine. Recreate. Restore
International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing	June 05	
World Pest Day	June 06	
UN Russian Language Day	June 06	
World Food Safety Day	June 07	Safe food today for a healthy tomorrow
World Oceans Day	June 08	The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods
World Accreditation Day	June 09	Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
World Day Against Child Labour	June 12	Act now: End child labour!
International Albinism Awareness Day	June 13	Strength Beyond All Odds
World Blood Donor Day	June 14	Give blood and keep the world beating
Global Wind Day	June 15	
International Day of Family Remittances	June 16	
World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	June 17	Restoration. Land. Recovery. We build back better with healthy land
National Reading Day	June 19	
International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	June 19	
World Refugee Day	June 20	Together we heal, learn and shine
World Music Day	June 21	
International Day of Yoga	June 21	
International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice	June 21	

CURRENT AFFAIRS DAILY DIGEST – JUNE 2021

World Humanist Day	June 21	
International Olympic Day	June 23	
International Widows Day	June 24	
United Nations Public Service Day	June 24	
International Widows Day	June 25	
Day of the Seafarer	June 25	Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future
International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	June 26	Share Facts On Drugs, Save Lives
International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	June 26	
Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day	June 27	MSME 2021: key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery
National Statistics day	June 29	End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture
International Day of the Tropics	June 29	
International Day of Parliamentarism	June 30	
International Asteroid Day	June 30	
World Social Media Day	June 30	