

GUPTA

CLASSES

Current Affairs

1 January to 15 September 2021

Part-1



GUPTA

CLASSES

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BANKING & FINANCIAL AWARENESS

CURRENT RATES

Policy rates	Bi-monthly Monetary Policy February 2021	Bi-monthly Monetary Policy April 2021(First for FY22)	Bi-monthly Monetary Policy June 2021(FY22)	Bi-monthly Monetary Policy August 2021(FY22)
Repo Rate	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%	3.35%	3.35%	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	3%	3.50%	4.00%	4.00%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%	18.00%	18.00%	18.00%

* Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be held 6 times for a financial year as per RBI rules

SMALL SAVING SCHEMES INTEREST RATE

Minister of Finance under GOI revised the interest rate for the fourth quarter (January 2021-March 2021) of the FY20-21 on small saving schemes. It will be revised three months once.

Instruments	Rate of interest (January 1 to March 31, 2021)	Compounding Frequency*
Post Office Savings Account	4.0%	Annually
1 Year Time Deposit	5.5%	Quarterly
2 Year Time Deposit	5.5%	Quarterly
3 Year Time Deposit	5.5%	Quarterly
5 Year Time Deposit	6.7%	Quarterly
5 Year Recurring Deposit Scheme	5.8 %	Quarterly
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	7.4%	Quarterly and Paid
Monthly Income Account	6.6%	Monthly and paid
National Savings Certificate (VIII Issue)	6.8%	Annually
Public Provident Fund Scheme	7.1%	Annually
Kisan Vikas Patra	6.9 % (will mature in 124 months)	Annually
Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme	7.6%	Annually

INDIA'S GROWTH PREDICTION

Organization	Year	Predictions & Points to be Noted
SEPTEMBER 2021		
Morgan Stanley	FY22	Estimated, India GDP growth at 10.5% for FY22
Moody	FY21 & FY22	Global Macro Outlook 2021-22' projected India's growth for calendar year (CY) 2021 at 9.6% and 7% for 2022. 20 advanced economies will grow by 5.6% in 2021 while emerging economies will collectively expand by 7.2% in 2021.

National Statistical Office (NSO)	FY22	India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the first quarter of financial year 2021-22 (Q1 FY22) (i.e. April to June 2021) grew by 20.1 percent as compared to a contraction of 24.4 (-24.4) percent in Q1 FY21.
AUGUST 2021		
India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)	FY22	Ind-Ra downgraded the economic growth forecast or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for India to 9.4% for FY22
JULY 2021		
Fitch Ratings	FY22	India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for FY22 by 280bp to 10 percent from its earlier estimation of 12.8 percent
Asian Development Bank	FY22 & FY23	India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast in 2022 to 10 percent and 7.5 per cent in FY23
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	FY22 & FY23	India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast in FY22 to 9.5 percent from 12.5 percent and raised the growth forecast for FY23 to 8.5 percent from 6.9 percent.
Care Ratings	FY21 & FY22	India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast in FY22 at the range of 8.8 to 9 percent. Indian economy contracted by 7.3 percent (-7.3) in FY21.
JUNE 2021		
RBI's 6-members Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)	FY22	The MPC has projected India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth for FY22 at 9.5 percent
National Statistical Office (NSO),	FY21	India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for Q4 FY21 at 1.6 percent with a contraction of 7.3(-7.3) percent for FY21
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	FY21 & FY22	India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast in 2021 to 9.9 percent and 5.8 percent in FY22
Controller General of Accounts' (CGA) revenue-expenditure data	FY21	India's fiscal deficit for FY21 at 9.3 percent / Rs 18.21 lakh crore of the gross domestic product (GDP),
State Bank of India (SBI)	FY22	India's FY22 GDP growth estimates to 7.9 percent from 10.4 percent.
Moody's	FY22 & FY23	GDP growth of 9.3 percent in FY22 and 7.9 percent in FY23.
World Bank	FY22 & FY23	India's GDP growth forecast for FY22 to 8.3 percent and 7.5 percent in FY23 .
Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited (ICRA)	FY22	India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth in FY22 at 8.5 percent
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)	FY22	9.5% in the current financial year 2021-2022(FY22) which will be higher than the GDP of FY20.
Moody's Investors Service	FY21 & FY22	India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth reduced to 9.6 percent in 2021 and 7 percent growth in 2022.
S&P Global Ratings	FY22 & FY23	India's economic growth projection in FY22 to 9.5 percent and 7.8 percent in FY23

National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)	FY21 & FY22	India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for FY22 in the range of 8.4-10.1 percent . It estimated a contraction of 7.3(-7.3) percent in FY21.
MAY 2021		
CRISIL (Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited)	FY22	9.8-8.2%
Nomura	FY22	10.8 %
S&P Global Ratings	FY22	9.8 %
Fitch Ratings	FY22	9.5 %
APRIL 2021		
S&P Global Ratings	FY22	Projected Indian economy growth for FY22 at 11 per cent.
SBI Research	FY22	India's growth forecast for FY22 to 10.4 per cent from 11 per cent of the earlier prediction and it forecasted 14.3 per cent of nominal GDP
India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)	FY22	Ind-Ra have reduced India's GDP growth forecast of FY22 to 10.1 per cent, from its earlier projection of 10.4 per cent.
Care Ratings	FY22	India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for FY22 to 10.2 per cent from its earlier projection of 10.7-10.9 per cent.
MARCH 2021		
Fitch Ratings	FY22	India's Gross Domestic Product(GDP) growth estimate to 12.8% for FY22 from earlier 11%
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development(UNCTAD)	2021	India's GDP to have contracted 6.9%(-6.9%) in 2020 and grow 5% in 2021.
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	FY 22	GDP of India to 12.6% for FY 22, the highest among G20 countries.OECD has projected the India's GDP to contract 7.4 per cent (-7.4%) in FY21.
National Statistical Office (NSO)	FY21	Growth of India's GDP is estimated at 0.4% in Q3FY21 (October-December, 2020) For full FY21, a contraction of 8% (-8%) was projected
FEBRUARY 2021		
S&P (Standard &Poors) Global Ratings	FY22	India's economic recovery at 10% in FY22, on lower base. Earlier, it had revised India's Real GDP Forecast for FY21 to -7.7%(contract by 7%) from -9%
Nomura	FY22	India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow at 13.5% in FY22 as Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI)
India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)Ltd	FY22	10.4% in FY22, primarily based on the base effect.Earlier, Ind-Ra had projected the GDP for FY 21 as -7.8%.
State Bank of India (SBI)	FY 21	India's Gross domestic Product(GDP) for FY 21 will contract by 7%(-7%) from -7.4% projected earlier.GDP growth in FY22 will remain at 11%.
Moody	FY22(FY21-22)	~17% for FY 22 from its earlier 14.3%.
JANUARY 2021		
National Statistical Office (NSO)	FY20(FY2019-20)	growth rate of Indian economy was 4%.This growth estimate is lower than the provisional estimates (PE) of FY20 growth at 4.2% released in May 2020.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)	FY21(FY20-21)	India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to contract by 8 in (-8%) in 2020-21. The survey projected the Fiscal deficit for 2020-21 at 3.5%.
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	FY21	projected India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to contract by 8%(-8%) in FY20-21. It also projected India's GDP growth at 11.5% in FY 21-22
Japanese brokerage Nomura	FY21	upgraded the GDP forecast for India in 2020-21 to -6.7% from earlier -7.7%. It further projected the GDP of India to rise to 13.5% in FY22.
Fitch	FY22(FY21-22)	India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will expand by 11% in 2021-22 in contrary to the down gradation by 9.4%(-9.4%) in the FY21 fiscal (April 2020 - March 2021).
National Statistical Office (NSO)	FY 21	-7.7%
Global Economic Prospects (GEP-January 2021) by WorldBank	FY22&FY23	India is expected to grow at 5.4% in the FY 2021-22 & 5.2% in FY 2022-23
ICRA (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited)	FY22	India's real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) will expand by 10.1% in FY2022
CARE Ratings	FY21	downgraded its projection of the Centre's fiscal deficit to 7.8% of GDP against its earlier estimate of 9-9.5%.

FIRST IN FINANCIAL SERVICE IN INDIA/WORLD

SEPTEMBER 2021

- **DBS** partnership with Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (**SWIFT**) Global Payments Innovation(gpi) launched **real-time online tracking for cross-border collections** for businesses in India. DBS became the first bank in India and Asia-Pacific to offer this service to its clients.
- **El Salvador** becomes the first country to adopt bitcoin as a national currency. The country launched the digital wallet called "Chivo" or "Cool" which offered \$30 of free Bitcoin for the adaption.
- **Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL)** enables India's first FASTag based metro parking facility in partnership with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).

AUGUST 2021

- **GyanDhan**, India's 1st education financing platform, has received a Non-Banking Financial Company (**NBFC**) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **ICICI Prudential Life** Insurance Company Ltd became the 1st life insurance company in India to provide a **UPI AutoPay facility** to its customers. For this it has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and integrated NPCI's UPI (Unified Payment Interface) AutoPay platform.
- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** approved a general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) equivalent to US\$650 billion (SDR 456 billion). It is the largest SDR allocation in the history of the IMF.
- **CoinDCX** become the first Indian cryptocurrency exchange to grab the title of '**unicorn**' with valuation to \$1.1 billion (Rs 8,150 crore).
- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)** launched the 'Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System' (**FRUITS**) **portal** to store the farmers' land details. The portal is the first-of-its-kind initiative in India by the Karnataka government to gather the land details of the farmers.
- **PayNearby** collaborated with Visa and RBL Bank to launch **SoftPoS** and **mPoS**. With this, as per PayNearby, it becomes the first company to launch an all-inclusive digital package for retailers

JULY 2021

- **India's First Omni-channel Pre-paid Card ,OmniCard** – a prepaid card for youngsters' aged between 15-24 years', was launched by Eroute Technologies in India after the RBI allowed them to include more features into prepaid cards, bringing them on a par with payment banks.
- **National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) at Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh** has tied up with National Insurance Company Ltd (NICL) to provide an insurance policy for the 1st time to insure the highly valuable High-Altitude Yaks against the risks.
- **Bhutan** became the 1st country to adopt India's UPI standards for its QR deployment and the only country to issue and accept RuPay cards and accept BHIM UPI.
- **Paytm Payments Bank's (PPB)** become first in India to make instant payments across online platforms through its all-in-one payment gateway using balances available in their Fixed Deposit (FD) account, through IndusInd Bank.
- **Biteeu** become the **1st cryptocurrency exchange in the world** to leverage the high security of space-grade infrastructure for ultra-secure Bitcoin cryptocurrency transactions.

JUNE 2021

- **India's largest crypto exchange, WazirX** has announced its own **Non-Fungible Token (NFT)** marketplace, a first of its kind for India and South Asia.
- **ICICI** (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) Bank became the **1st** bank in Asia-Pacific and the 2nd globally to offer the facility called 'SWIFT gpi (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication Global Payments Innovation) Instant', the facility for cross border inward payments.
- **Satin Creditcare Network Limited (SCNL)** become India's first Microfinance Institute(MFI) to Integrate NPCI's UPI AutoPay platform into their system, to enable fully automated loan EMI payments (Recurring Payments) by its customers.
- **El Salvador** become the **first country in the world** to grant **legal tender status to bitcoin**. The use of bitcoin as a legal tender will become law in 90 days.
- **PhonePe** launched India's **first Wallet Auto Top-up feature** using UPI (Unified Payments Interface) e-mandates for its customers. The amount for Auto top-up ranges from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000.
- **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) India**, in partnership with ICICI Bank, executed India's 1st digitised bill discounting transaction.

MAY 2021

- **Airtel Payments Bank** become the first payments bank in India to enable ₹2 lakh of day-end balance account limit.
- **ZebPay** launched **India's 1st lending platform** under the cryptocurrency exchange for the investors to invest their coins and earn returns (interest).

APRIL 2021

- **India's first video-based wealth community** for the users to interact with subject-matter experts in live sessions on different wealth topics was launched by Paytm, the digital financial service company.

MARCH 2021

- **India's First Municipal Green Bond** was Issued by Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- **World's first Catastrophe Bond (cat bond)** was launched by Danish Red Cross, Denmark's branch of the Red Cross for Volcano-related disasters with the support of several financial firms.
- **World's first green hedging transaction** was executed by Deutsche Bank and Continuum Energy Levanter Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of Continuum Green Energy (Continuum).
- **India's First SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate)** linked External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) deal was signed between State Bank of India (SBI) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).
- **Telangana Grameena Bank (TGB) & Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB)** became India's 1st RRBs to launch Digital Savings Account opening facility through Video-Know Your Customer (KYC) facility.

FEBRUARY 2021

JANUARY 2021

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA(RBI) IN NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021

- RBI delisted **UCO Bank** from its Prompt Corrective Action (**PCA**) framework, as the bank's earning in the last 1-year till 31st March 2021 has satisfied the necessary conditions for its removal.
- RBI extended the scope of tokenization from device-based tokenization to **card-on-file tokenization (CoFT)** services. This enhancement will bar merchants from storing actual card data while online transactions. RBI also permitted card issuers (such as Rupay, Visa, and Mastercard) to act as **token service providers (TSP)**.
- RBI announced the opening of the **3rd cohort** under the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) on the theme '**MSME Lending**'. The theme for 1st cohort (November 2020) was 'Retail Payments' while for 2nd cohort (December 2020) it was 'Cross Border Payments'.
- RBI and the Monetary Authority of **Singapore (MAS)** are all set for linkage project under which their respective fast payment systems viz. Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) and **PayNow** will be linked by July 2022.

AUGUST 2021

- RBI released the recommendation report of the **Expert Committee** on Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (**UCBs**) under the chairmanship of **N. S. Vishwanathan**, which was constituted by RBI to review the issues of UCBs and to provide a road map for strengthening the sector...[Click here to read more..](#)
- RBI issued Master Directions on Prepaid Payment Instruments, 2021 (**MD-PPIs, 2021**), which are applicable to all Prepaid Payment Instrument (**PPI**) Issuers and System Participants.

Current Classification:

Small PPIs	Full-KYC PPIs
These PPIs are issued by banks and non-banks after obtaining minimum details of the PPI holder	Issued by banks and non-banks after completing Know Your Customer (KYC) of the PPI holder
Could be used for the purchase of goods and services	Could be used for the purchase of goods and services
Funds transfer or cash withdrawal is not permitted	Funds transfer or cash withdrawal is permitted
Outstanding Amount - Upto Rs 10,000/ month, not exceeding Rs 1.2 lakh/year	Outstanding Amount - Not exceeding Rs 2 lakh (earlier it was Rs 1 lakh)

- RBI has increased the ceiling on remittances per transaction from India to Nepal from **Rs 50,000 to Rs 2 lakh**. RBI has also removed the limit of 12 remittances/year per remitter.
- RBI included street vendors part of the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (**PM SVANidhi Scheme**) in tier-1 and tier-2 centres as beneficiaries under the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (**PIDF**) Scheme
- RBI introduced a web-based and end-to-end workflow automation system named 'Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring' (**PRISM**) to strengthen the compliance of the entities that are supervised by RBI.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued two draft documents viz, Foreign Exchange Management (FEM) (Non-debt Instruments - Overseas Investment (OI)) Rules, 2021 and FEM (OI) Regulations, 2021 by rationalizing the existing provisions that are governing overseas investment.
- RBI released its third bi-monthly **monetary policy** statement for **FY22** (April 2021 - March 2022). RBI decided to keep the **rates unchanged** for the 7th consecutive time. The MPC has retained India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection for FY22 at **9.5 percent** and Real GDP growth for Q1 FY23 is projected at 17.2 percent.

- Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was projected at 5.7 percent in FY22.
- RBI has extended the Targeted Long Term Repo Operations (TLTRO) on Tap Scheme by a period of three months, i.e., till December 31, 2021.....[Click here for full detail...](#)
- In accordance with the information provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the total amount of unclaimed **deposits** of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) was **Rs. 24,356 crore**, as on July 31, 2020.
- RBI empanelled the **IndusInd Bank**, the private sector lender, as an 'Agency Bank' to facilitate transactions related to government (govt) businesses.
- RBI has empanelled **South Indian Bank**, the Kerala based private sector lender, as an 'Agency Bank'
- RBI introduced a scheme named '**Scheme of Penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs**' to levy monetary charges/Penalty on Banks & White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) for cash-out (i.e. the non-availability of cash) in Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) due to non-replenishment of cash.
 - RBI will issue a penalty of **Rs 10,000** per ATM/ WLAs for banks for Cash-out for **more than 10 hours** in a month
- RBI issued the framework to non-bank Payment System Operators' (PSOs) **Outsourcing of Payment and Settlement-related Activities** (including onboarding customers, IT-based services, etc) to service providers.
 - RBI has **restricted** the PSO's from outsourcing **Core management functions**
 - The PSO's are directed to evaluate the need for outsourcing its critical processes and activities, and the selection of service providers based on comprehensive risk assessment.
- RBI introduced the 'Financial Inclusion Index' (**FI-Index**) to measure the extent of financial inclusion across India. It will be published annually in **July month** (for the financial year (FY) ending previous March).The annual FI-Index for the FY21 (period ending March 2021) is 53.9 as against 43.4 of FY17
- RBI issued revised **guidelines** for both new and existing **Safe Deposit Locker** and Safe Custody Article Facility with the banks. The guidelines would come into effect from **January 1, 2022...[Click here for more detail...](#)**
- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 1 crore** on Cooperatieve Rabobank UA, Mumbai, Maharashtra, for contravention of certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and directions related to transfer to reserve funds.
- **RBI** cancelled the license of **Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd.**, Panvel, Maharashtra, due to the bank not having adequate capital and earning prospects to pay its present depositors in full.
- RBI imposed a monetary **penalty** of on **Hewlett-Packard Financial Services** (India) Private Ltd, Bengaluru, Karnataka, for non-compliance with the statutory directions issued by RBI.
- RBI has also imposed a penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Village Financial Services Ltd, Kolkata, for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Know Your Customer (KYC) Directions, 2016.
- RBI also recently imposed a penalty of ₹13 lakh on Ahmednagar Merchant's Cooperative Bank, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, and ₹2 lakh on The Mahila Vikas Co-operative Bank, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

JULY 2021

- **RBI released the 23rd issue of its bi-annual Financial Stability Report (FSR) 2021.** It estimated the Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPAs) to rise by 9.8 percent in March 2022 (as per the baseline scenario), from 7.48 percent in March 2021.
 - As per the severe stress scenario, the GNPAs in March 2022 was estimated to be 11.22 percent. The report stated economic recovery in May and early June 2021.
 - The CRAR of SCBs increased by 130 bps from 14.7 percent in March 2020 to 16.0 percent in March 2021
 - Bank credit increased by 5.4 percent (y-o-y), which was the lowest in the last 4 financial years.
 - Credit extended by PSBs, PVBs and NBFCs increased by 3.2 percent, 9.9 percent, and 8.8 percent (y-o-y), respectively.

Type	GNPA Ratio	Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPA) Ratio
All SCBs	7.50%	2.40%
Public Sector Banks (PSBs)	9.50%	3.10%
Private Banks (PVBs)	4.80%	1.50%
Foreign Banks (FBs)	2.40%	0.60%

- **RBI reported the Government of India's (GoI) approval for the extension** of the 'Interest Equalization Scheme for Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit' for 3 months, i.e., up to September 30, 2021.
- **The publication of the RBI, 'Quarterly Basic Statistical Returns (BSR)-1: Outstanding Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), March 2021',** reported a 'negative credit (loan) growth in industrial sector' in FY21 due to COVID-19.
 - It reported continuous growth in personal loans which recorded 13.5 percent growth (Y-o-Y) in March 2021.
 - The credit to the Household sector rose by 10.9 percent (Y-o-Y) and its share in total credit increased to 52.6 percent in March 2021 from 49.8 percent in March 2020.
 - Weighted Average Lending Rate (WALR) on outstanding credit was declined by 21 basis points in Q4 FY21 and it has moderated by 91 basis points in FY21.
- **RBI released the 'Sources of Variation in Foreign Exchange (Forex) Reserves** in India during 2020-21' and reported an increase in the forex reserves in nominal terms, including the valuation effects, by USD 99.2 billion in FY21, compared to USD 64.9 billion of FY20.

Variation in Forex Reserves:

Item	FY21 (US\$ Billion)	FY20 (US\$ Billion)
Forex reserves on a balance of payments basis (i.e., excluding valuation effects)	87.3	59.5
Forex reserves in nominal terms (including the valuation effects)	99.2	64.9
current account balance	23.9	-24.7
Capital account	63.4	84.2
Foreign investment	80.1	44.4

- **RBI has issued directions relating to 'Appointment of Managing Director (MD) / Whole-Time Director (WTD)'** in all Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs).
 - i. Educational Qualifications: He should be a graduate, preferably, with Qualification in banking (such as Diploma in Banking and Finance/ Chartered /MBA (Finance)) or Post-graduation in any discipline.
 - ii. Age Limit: From 35 years to 70 years. (the bank's Boards are allowed to prescribe a lower retirement age).
 - iii. Experience Requirement: At least 8 years of experience at the middle/senior management level in the banking sector (including UCBs/ Non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)).
 - iv. Ineligible Persons: Member of Parliament (MP), Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), Member of Municipal Corporation or Municipality or other local bodies, persons engaged in business, trade or having substantial interest in any company.
 - v. Tenure of MD/ WTD:

Criteria	Tenure
Minimum period to hold the post after 1st appointment	3 years
Maximum period to hold the post at a time	5 years
Re-appointment (in the same bank)	After a minimum gap of 3 years (In that 3 years they should not be appointed or associated with a bank (directly/indirectly))
Maximum Tenure to hold the post in the same bank	15 years.

- **RBI launched the 54th round of quarterly 'Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilization Survey' (OBICUS)** of the manufacturing sector. The reference period for the survey is Q1 FY22 (April – June 2021).
- **RBI issued an advisory to banks and other RBI-regulated entities** to prepare for the transition from the international benchmark reference rate, 'London Interbank Offered Rate' (LIBOR), to any other widely accepted Alternate Reference Rates (ARR) by December 31, 2021.
- **RBI issued the new 10-year Government Security (G-Sec)** (that would mature in 2031), at a cut-off yield of 6.10 percent per annum, higher than the earlier cut-off yield of 5.85 percent.

- **RBI approved the Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB)** to apply for the amalgamation of its promoter 'Equitas Holdings' into itself. Equitas SFB is the subsidiary of Equitas Holdings.
- **RBI introduced a scheme named 'RBI Retail Direct'** to facilitate investment in Government Securities(G-Sec) by retail investors (individuals).
- **RBI extended the implementation deadline for banks** to use only lockable cassettes, which could be swapped at the time of cash replenishment (filling up cash) in ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) till March 2022.
- **RBI restricted Mastercard onto their card networks** from July 22, 2021, due to the non-compliance with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data.
- **RBI cancelled the license of Dr Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Urban Co-operative Bank Limited** in Nilanga, Latur district of Maharashtra with effect from the close of business on 14th July 2021.
- **RBI launched the 95th round of the Quarterly 'Industrial Outlook Survey' (IOS)** which assesses the performance of the Indian manufacturing sector. The reference period for the survey is Q2 FY22 (July-September 2021).

Indicators	Performance in Q4 FY21		
	Listed Private manufacturing companies	Information Technology (IT) Sector Companies	Non-IT Sector
Sales	Increased by 31% (Y-o-Y) from 7.4% in Q3 FY21.	Increased by 6.4% (Y-o-Y)	Marginal growth
Expenditure	Expenditure on raw materials Increased; Staff growth also increased	-	
Operating profit	Increased (Y-o-Y) due to rise in sales than expenditure	Increased	
Interest Coverage Ratio (ICR)	Increased to 7.3% from 6.6% in Q3 FY21	Remained below 1	

- **RBI has clarified that IDFC Limited** can exit as the promoter of IDFC First Bank Limited after the expiry of lock-in period of 5 years which already ended on September 30, 2020.
- **RBI planned for the phased introduction of a 'Central Bank Digital Currency' (CBDC)** at the webinar organised by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.
- **RBI released the RBI - Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI)** in March 2021 at 270.59, increased from 207.84 in March 2020. The digital payments of the country have recorded a growth of 30.19 percent in FY21 due to COVID-19.
- **RBI allowed non-banks to participate in its Centralised Payment Systems (CPS)** viz, Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) systems, in a phased manner.

JUNE 2021

- **Under sections 10(4) and 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999),** RBI had fixed the limits for Foreign Portfolio Investors' (FPI) investment in Government securities (G-secs) and State Development Loans (SDLs) unchanged at 6 percent and 2 percent respectively, of outstanding stocks of securities for FY22.
- **RBI has cancelled the licence of Pune-based Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank** as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
- **RBI increased the interchange fee that banks** could charge on ATM per transaction from Rs 15 to Rs 17 for financial transactions, and from Rs 5 to Rs 6 for non-financial transactions in all centres. This could be effective from August 1, 2021. RBI enabled the customers eligible to make 5 free transactions (inclusive of financial and non-financial transactions) every month.
- **RBI has increased the customer charges** from Rs 20 to Rs 21 per transaction that are applicable to the customers beyond the free transactions. It shall be effective from January 1, 2022.
- **RBI extended the Risk-Based Internal Audit (RBIA) system** for all deposit-taking Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), irrespective of their size, and for non-deposit taking HFCs with asset size of Rs 5,000 crore and above to enhance the quality and effectiveness of their internal audit system.
- **RBI issued regulations for investments in Payment Systems Operators (PSOs)** by new entities from Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Non-compliant Jurisdictions (Countries). Fresh investments (directly or indirectly should account for less than 20 percent of the voting power (including potential voting power) of the PSO.

- **RBI expanded the scope of the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)** by permitting the addition of 'mobile prepaid recharges' as an additional biller category in BBPS on a voluntary basis.
- **RBI revoked the deposit-taking status of Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL)** and reclassified it as a **non-deposit** taking housing finance company (HFC), before approving the **Piramal group's** bid to take over it towards the end of the resolution process.
- RBI granted in-principle approval to Centrum Financial Services Limited (CFSL) to set up a small finance bank (SFB).
- RBI launched the FY21 round of its annual Survey on 'Computer Software and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) Exports'.
- **RBI linked the declaration of dividend** by non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to their minimum prudential norms on Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) and Non-Performing Assets (NPAs).

Parameter	Requirements
CRAR	Deposit-taking NBFCs (other than standalone primary dealers (SPDs)) should have a CRAR (consisting of Tier-I and Tier-II capital) of at least 15 percent for the last 3 years, including the accounting year for which it proposes to declare a dividend.
	Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) should maintain CRAR consisting of Tier-I and Tier-II capital which shall not be less than 13 percent (as of March 31, 2020), 14 percent (on or before March 31, 2021), and 15 percent (on or before March 31, 2022, and thereafter).
	SPDs should have maintained a minimum CRAR of 20 percent for the FY for which a dividend is proposed.
Net NPAs Ratio	It should be less than 6 percent in each of the last 3 years, including the accounting year for which it proposes to declare a dividend.
Other Criteria	NBFCs should comply with the provisions of Section 45 IC of the RBI Act, 1934 and the HFCs need to comply with the provisions of Section 29 C of the National Housing Bank (NHB) Act, 1987. Note – RBI/ NHB has not placed any explicit restrictions on the declaration of dividend.

MAY 2021

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** joined as a member of Central Banks and Supervisors' Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).
- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 10 crore on HDFC Bank Limited for contravention of provisions of section 6(2) and section 8 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act).
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released its **Annual Report for 2020-21**, a statutory report of its Central Board of Directors.
 - The balance sheet of RBI increased by 6.99 percent /Rs 3,72,876.43 crore, from Rs 53,34,792.70 crore (June 30, 2020) to Rs 57,07,669.13 crore (March 31, 2021).
 - RBI's gains from foreign exchange transactions rose by 69 percent from Rs 29,993 crore to Rs 50,629 crore in 2020-21.
 - Bank Fraud in terms of value (Rs 1 lakh and more) decreased by 25 percent to Rs 1.38 trillion and fraud in terms of numbers decreased by 15 percent...[Click here for full detail.](#)
- RBI notified the guidelines for the **Amalgamation of one or more District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs)** in a State with State Co-operative Bank (StCB) or amalgamation of one DCCB with another.
- **RBI** notified the guidelines for the Amalgamation of one or more District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in a State with State Co-operative Bank (StCB) or amalgamation of one DCCB with another.
- **RBI** has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1 crore on City Union Bank Limited and Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions of RBI.
- **RBI** approved the transfer of Rs 99,122 crore as surplus to the Central government for the accounting period of 9 months
- **Under Section 18 read with Section 10(2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, RBI has mandated that all prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) or mobile wallets that are fully KYC-compliant be made interoperable by March 31, 2022.

- RBI has excluded Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.(LVB) from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 after it was merged with DBS Bank India Ltd (DBIL) in 2020.
- RBI has cancelled the license of United Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bagnan, West Bengal in May 2021, as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects to pay its present depositors in full.
- RBI in exercise of the powers conferred on it under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, grants authorization to Eroute Technologies Private Limited with perpetual validity for issuance and operation of semi-closed **Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)** in the country.
- Government of India in consultation with the RBI has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds for FY22. The Sovereign Gold Bonds will be issued in 6 tranches from May 2021 to September 2021.
- RBI revised the existing guidelines on “Appointment of Scheduled Private Sector Banks as Agency Banks of RBI” for authorising Scheduled Private Sector Banks as agency banks of RBI for conducting government (Central and/or State) business.
- RBI second Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) has constituted a 6-member Advisory Group headed by S Janakiraman, Managing Director of State Bank of India to streamline the RBI’s regulations and compliance procedures.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 40 lakh on Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank, Shimla, for non-compliance with certain regulatory directions issued by NABARD.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a Rs 3 crore monetary penalty on ICICI Bank for contravention of certain directions issued by the RBI on ‘Prudential Norms for Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio by Banks in July 2015.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a series of measures and Comprehensive strategies to support all stakeholders from the second wave of COVID-19 led economic difficulties.
 - RBI announced an on-tap liquidity window of Rs 50,000 crore with 3 years of maturity and at repo rate till March 31, 2022(End of FY22).
 - To support small business, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), and unorganised sectors RBI introduced special three-year long-term repo operations (SLTRO) of Rs 10,000 crore.
 - RBI allowed banks and non-banks to extend the restructuring loan benefits to individual customers, small businesses, and MSMEs through Resolution Framework 2.0.
 - RBI allowed the utilisation of 100% floating provisions for non-performing assets...[Click here for full detail](#)

APRIL 2021

- RBI has **informed the continuation of the existing interim Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit** of Rs 51,560 crore for all states and Union Territories(UTs) for 6 months i.e., up to September 30, 2021.
- RBI Issued **Guidelines for Appointment of Statutory Central Auditors (SCAs)/Statutory Auditors (SAs)** with Continuous 3 Years Tenure.
- RBI has fixed **15 years as the tenure for the MD & CEOs** or whole-time directors(WTDs) to hold their post in a bank through “Corporate Governance in Banks – Appointment of Directors and Constitution of Committees of the Board”.
- RBI has **restricted American Express Banking Corp and Diners Club** International Ltd, from on-boarding new domestic customers onto their card networks from May 1, 2021, due to the non-compliance with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data.
- RBI **set up a 6 member committee under Sudarshan Sen**, former executive director, RBI chairmanship to evaluate the role of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) in stressed debt resolution and review their business model.
- **RBI has cancelled the license of Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Limited**, Maharashtra in April 2021, as the bank doesn’t have adequate capital to fund its depositors in full and as it did not comply with the various provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- In April 2021, Based on the empirical testing and review of Counter-Cyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB) indicators by RBI, it has decided not to activate CCyB due to lack of necessity.

- RBI has formed **the second Regulations Review Authority (RRA) named RRA 2.0** to Streamline its Regulations and Reduce Compliance.
- RBI announced its **first purchase of government securities for an amount of Rs 25,000 crore** under the G-sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 1.0), the purchase was planned to be held on April 15, 2021.
- RBI has **revised the Quarterly Projection Model as QPM 2.0** to enrich the model's analytics and to capture the interactions between the fiscal and monetary policy with real-economy elements.
- RBI has decided to **extend the Targeted Long Term Repo Operations (TLTRO) on Tap Scheme** by a period of six months, i.e., till September 30, 2021.
- RBI planned to **extend fresh lending of Special Liquid Facility(SLF) of Rs 50,000 crore** for FY22 to All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs).
- RBI **extended the classified lending of Banks to NBFCs for on-lending** under the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) for 6 months i.e. up to September 30, 2021.
- RBI announced the **construction and periodic publishing of the "Financial Inclusion Index"** (FI Index) annually in July month.
- RBI accepted the **WMA recommendation to advance the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limits** for states by 46%
- RBI **extended the membership of Centralised Payment Systems (CPSs) facilities** such as National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) to non-bank payment system operators.
- RBI has **doubled the Payments bank's deposit limit to ₹2 lakhs to support MSMEs** and to improve the Interoperability of PPIs to full-KYC.
- RBI **extended the classified lending of Banks to NBFCs for on-lending** under the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) for 6 months i.e., up to September 30, 2021.
- RBI has **enhanced the loan limits under Priority Sector Lending(PSL)** for banks' lending against Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs) / electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (eNWRs) from ₹50 lakhs to ₹75 lakhs per borrower.
- RBI has informed **7.81% as the applicable average base rate to be charged for the loans** that are borrowed from Non-Banking Financial Company – Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs) for the first quarter of Financial Year 2022 (Q1FY22).
- Government of India has informed **RBI to continue the existing inflation-targeting framework 4%** with a +/- 2% tolerance band (in the range of 2% – 6%) for the next 5 fiscal years i.e., FY22 to FY26.
- **As per the RBI's report** "Developments in India's Balance of Payments India recorded Current account deficit of \$1.7 billion in Q3FY21 (i.e. 0.2% of Gross Domestic Product(GDP)) due to the COVID-19's impact on trade.
- RBI in consultation with the Government, decided the **limits for Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for the centre to Rs 1.2 lakh crore for the first half of the FY22 i.e. April 2021 to September 2021.
- RBI **extended the timeline for banks to process the recurring payments** through online transactions with Additional Factor Authentication (AFA) on e-mandate by 6 months i.e. till September 30,2021.
- **RBI has tightened its supervision norms over Payment** companies that are storing customer data.As per RBI's norms, from April 1, 2021, all licensed payment system operators (PSOs) have to submit detailed "compliance certificates" to the RBI twice a year.

MARCH 2021

- RBI issued RBI (Amalgamation of Urban Cooperative Banks) Directions, 2020, guidelines for merger/amalgamation to all Primary/Urban Co-operative Banks(UCBs) to place them in the public domain.
- RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹15 lakh on Fedbank Financial Services Ltd (Fedfina), Mumbai, for non-compliance with certain provisions of the central bank's directions on monitoring of frauds.
- RBI extended the restrictions on withdrawals and deposits in the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC)Bank till 30 June 2021 due to the delay in finalizing a prospective investor for the bank.

- As per RBI recent report, Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pumped inflows into equities in India have made the highest record of \$36 billion in FY21 up to March 10, which is the highest one since FY13.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked all banks in India to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS) in all its branches by September 30, 2021, to faster the settlement of cheques.
- As per the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s internal report 'Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2020-21'** on the theme "Reviewing the Monetary Policy Framework", India's medium-term inflation target of 4% with a +/-2 % tolerance band is appropriate for the country.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) removed LIC - owned Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI)** from its enhanced regulatory supervision, the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework, after almost 4 years.

FEBRUARY 2021

- **Reserve Bank of India on considering the present liquidity position of Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.**, has imposed a withdrawal cap of Rs 1,000 on the customers of the bank. But customers are allowed to set off loans against deposits subject to conditions.
- **RBI has brought the State Bank of Sikkim** under its regulatory purview, the ownership structure of the bank will not be changed and will be regulated by the RBI on a par with other banks.. The bank only operates within Sikkim and is wholly-owned by the state government.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the Draft Reserve Bank of India (Credit Derivatives) Directions, 2021** in exercise of the powers conferred under section 45W of the RBI Act 1934 read with section 45U.
- **"Master Direction - Non-Banking Financial Company - Housing Finance Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2021"** issued by RBI in exercise of the powers conferred under sections 45L and 45MA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and Sections 30, 30A, 32 and 33 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.
- Resident individuals to make remittances under Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) set up in India under the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data on Scheduled Banks' Statement of Position in India**, bank credit growth in FY21 up to January 29, 2021 has reached about 90% of the same period of FY20.
- **RBI observes Financial Literacy Week (FLW)** annually since 2016 to promote & spread awareness about financial education messages on a particular theme through a focused campaign across India.
- **RBI has appointed an external professional IT firm** to carry out a special audit of the entire IT infrastructure of HDFC bank under Section 30 (1-B) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- **RBI issued guidelines on Risk-Based Internal Audit (RBIA)** for selected Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs).
- **"Ombudsman Schemes of the Reserve Bank for the year 2019-20"** i.e. the period covering July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 the Annual Report released by RBI
 - In accordance to the report, the complaints received at Office of Banking Ombudsman (OBOs) recorded an increase of 57.54% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) in FY19-20. There were a total of 308,630 complaints in the FY20 as against 195,901 in FY19...[Click here for more detail.](#)

JANUARY 2021

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a comprehensive framework to strengthen the grievance redress mechanism in banks. This newly introduced framework is on the lines of 'Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies' issued as part of the Monetary Policy statement on December 4, 2020. [Click here to Read monetary policy](#)
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, overseas investment by domestic firms fell by over 42% to USD 1.45 billion in December 2020 in comparison to USD 2.51 billion in December 2019.
- On January 25, 2021, RBI released the 3rd booklet on Payment Systems titled "Payment and Settlement Systems in India- Journey in the Second Decade of the Millennium 2010-20" described the possibility of a digital version of fiat currency.

- RBI released a Discussion Paper on “Revised Regulatory Framework for NBFCs- A Scale-Based Approach” on the lines of the announcement made in the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies on December 4, 2020.
- An article ‘**Small Finance Banks: Balancing Financial Inclusion and Viability**’ published in Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) monthly bulletin on January 21, 2021. The article prepared by Richa Saraf and Pallavi Chavan.
- RBI has formulated a 6-member Working Group (WG) to study all aspects of digital lending activities in the regulated unregulated financial sector. The group will be chaired by Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director, RBI.
- As per the 2020 list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), SBI, ICICI, and HDFC continue to be D-SIBs or institutions which are ‘too big to fail (TBTF)’.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the 22nd issue of its bi-annual Financial Stability Report (FSR) 2021. It stated that gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) may rise to 13.5% by September 2021, from 7.5% in September 2020 under the baseline scenario.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released “Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2019-20” under broad theme of impact of COVID-19 on banking and non-banking sectors, and the way forward.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced the RBI-Digital Payments Index (DPI) to measure a growth in digital or cashless transactions across the country.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the January 2021 round of household surveys namely “Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH)” and “Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS)” to represent inflation expectations and consumer confidence.
- RBI introduced Legal Entity Identifier (LEI), a unique 20-digit global reference number for all payment transactions such as RTGS and NEFT of Rs 50 crore and above.
- RBI announced Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme with an initial corpus of INR 345 crores for next three years under the chairmanship of RBI Deputy Governor BP Kanungo to create payment acceptance infrastructure in Tier-3 to Tier-6 Centres with special focus on North East states.

Bank License Cancellation

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the licence of Osmanabad (Maharashtra)-based Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the licence of Shivam Sahakari Bank Ltd, a co-operative bank in Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

CABINET APPROVAL / BILL / ACTS PASSED FOR BANKS/FINANCIAL SERVICE

AUGUST 2021 & SEPTEMBER 2021

JULY 2021

- **Government (govt) amended the LIC of India (Staff) Regulations, 1960** to extend the superannuation (retirement) age of Initial Public Offer (IPO)-bound LIC Chairman to 62 years from 60 years.
- Department of Financial Services (DFS), removed the position of **chairman** from the IPO (Initial Public Offer) bound – Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**) and it will have Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**), by making amendments over the LIC Act 1956.
- Cabinet approves **Deposit Insurance & Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2021** to provide account holders access to their deposits of up to INR 5 lakh funds within 90 days of a bank coming under Moratorium imposed by RBI.
- Cabinet approved the amendment in the General Insurance Business Nationalisation Act (**GIBNA**), 1972 to facilitate the **privatisation of 1 General Insurance Company** in the public sector.

JUNE 2021

MAY 2021

- **Under section 30 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, 1992** (15 of 1992), SEBI amended the SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, called SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2021.
- **Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Amendment Rules, 2021** which increases the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the Insurance sector to 74% from the existing 49%.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has amended the alternative investment funds (AIF) norms** called SEBI (AIFs) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2021 on May 2021 to add – definition of Start-up for the investment by Angel Funds and regulations over the AIFs.

SBI IN NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021

AUGUST 2021

- SBI has launched a '**SIM Binding**' feature in its digital banking platform YONO (You Only Need One), YONO Lite.
- **SBI Payments** partnered with Hitachi Payment Services to introduce **e-RUPI** transactions on the Yono SBI Merchant app.

JULY 2021

- **SBI** selected **Paisalo Digital** as National Corporate Business Correspondent of the Bank. It has been selected to ensure greater financial inclusion
- **SBI** topped the list of Public Sector Banks (PSB) **writing off loans** Rs 34,402 crore in FY21 followed by Union Bank of India (UBI).

JUNE 2021

- **SBI introduced a scheme 'Kavach Personal Loan'** to provide financial assistance to its customers to manage the COVID-19 treatment-related expenses. Personal loan ranging from Rs 25,000 to Rs 5 lakh at an interest rate of 8.5 percent per annum for 60 months.
- **SBI Cards & Payment Services, in partnership with Fabindia**, launched co-branded contactless credit cards named 'Fabindia SBI Card' and 'Fabindia SBI Card SELECT' to offer a rewarding shopping experience to its premium customers.
- **SBI launched "Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan"** up to Rs.100 crore, for the healthcare sector to extend loan support in view of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

MAY 2021

- **SBI made a partnership with HyperVerge** to obtain its technology called 'Video KYC solution' for onboarding customers online under COVID-19.
- **SBI's research report 'Ecowrap'** stated India's Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth for Q1 FY22 to be in the range of 10-15 percent as against RBI's forecast of 26.2 percent.

APRIL 2021

MARCH 2021

- **SBI** topped the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology(MeitY) Digital Payment Scorecard for 3 consecutive months.
- **SBI Mutual Funds** has launched its first overseas offering namely “SBI International Access-US Equity FoF” which is an open-ended Fund of Fund (FoF) scheme.
- **SBI** joined ‘Liink’, a peer-to-peer Blockchain-based data network of US based Investment Banking Company JPMorgan chase.
- **Yono-State Bank of India and Titan’s youth brand Fastrack** joined to introduce a new smart wearable fitness band with digital payment components under its sub-brand Reflex.

FEBRUARY 2021

JANUARY 2021

- **SBI Mutual Fund** has acquired an additional 86,993 shares in CSB Bank Ltd (formerly The Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd), which consequently raised its stake in the bank to 5.01% from 4.96% earlier.
- State Bank of India (SBI) in partnership with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) launched ‘IndianOil – SBI co-branded RuPay Debit Card’.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has executed two inter-bank short term money market deals with pricing linked to SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate) through its Hong Kong (China) branch.

OTHER BANK/FINANCIAL SERVICES IN NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021

- **BharatPe**, and **Axis Bank** entered into a strategic partnership to act as the acquiring bank for BharatPe’s point of sale (PoS) business ‘**BharatSwipe**’ and provide acceptance of debit and credit cards for merchants associated with BharatPe.
- The Central Banks of **Australia, Singapore, Malaysia** and **South Africa** have launched ‘**Project Dunbar**’ under which these quad banks will test the use of central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) for international settlements. This project will be led by the Singapore Centre of Bank of International Settlements Innovation Hub.
- **EarlySalary** partnered with HDB Financial Services Ltd (**HDBFS**) to improve Digital Lending.
- **Federal Bank** launched different variants of credit cards in association with **VISA .Celesta** (Targeted at HNIs (High Net Worth Individuals)), **Imperio** (for Family oriented customers), and **Signet** (for young professionals).
- **IDBI Intech Limited** implemented its **iAML** (Anti Money Laundering) solution at Life Insurance Corporation of India(LIC), an Indian statutory insurance and investment corporation.
- International Monetary Fund (**IMF**) allocated a Special Drawing Rights (**SDRs**) **12.57 billion** (equivalent to around USD 17.86 billion at the latest exchange rate) to India in August 2021
- **iSPIRT Foundation** launched **Account Aggregator (AA)** ecosystem Go-Live’ and announced the joining of **8 Major Banks** viz, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, IDFC First Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Federal Bank, under AA Network as financial information providers (FIP).
- **Jana Small Finance Bank** made tie up with **Karnataka** Government to provide the payment gateway service for Namma Shaale Nanna Koduge (My School, My Contribution) programme .
- **Karnataka Bank**, collaborating with Mswipe Technologies Private Limited launched ‘**WisePOSGo**’. It’s a Point of Sale(PoS) device that helps in processing of business payments and cashless transactions for merchants of the bank.
- **Lendingkart**’ partnered with **SBM Bank India** to offer customised overdraft facilities to over 1 lakh MSME customers through the Lendingkart platform.
- National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) partnered with ‘**Fiserv**’ to launch “**nFiNi**”, a RuPay based Application Programming Interface (API) platform to boost Credit card-based products in India.
- **Nigeria’s Central Bank** announced the partnership with **Bitt Inc**, the global fintech company, as a technical partner for the launch of its own cryptocurrency ‘**eNaira**’ by the end of 2021.
- New Development Bank(**NDB**) or ‘**BRICS Development Bank**’ admitted that Uruguay, United Arab Emirates(UAE) and Bangladesh joined as the 1st batch of **new members** of NDB.

- PayNearby has partnered with Retailers Association's Skill Council of India (RASCI) to launch '**PayNearbyNeoDukaan**', first-of-its-kind holistic store management tool, for the digital empowerment of its retail partners and retail stores.
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**) increased the maximum age for joining the National Pension System (NPS) from 65 years to **70 years** of age.
 - The customers could exercise the choice of Pension Fund (PF) and Asset Allocation with the maximum equity exposure of **15 percent** and **50 percent** under Auto and Active Choice respectively.
- **PhonePe** Account Aggregator Pvt Ltd, received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an **Account Aggregator (AA)** to share financial information.
- **SBM Bank-India** (State Bank of Mauritius), partnered with OneCard to launch a mobile-based credit card namely '**mobile-first**' which will be offered through an app.
- **SEBI** initiate the T+1 (**today plus one**) settlement cycle for equity transactions from January 1, 2022 under which Indian stock markets can transfer shares and money into client accounts in under **24 hours**.
- **South Indian Bank (SIB)** collaborated with Pune (Maharashtra)-based OneCard to launch an app based '**SIB - OneCard Credit Card**'.
- **UCO Bank** partnered with '**Fisdom**', a financial sector company that specializes in fund management, to offer wealth management services & products to its customers.
- **Visa** partnered with payment solutions firm Innoviti to enable the service of **storing money** in the **cards** upto Rs 2,000. It will enable transactions without connectivity

AUGUST 2021

- State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, Canara Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Deutsche Bank, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Axis Bank, and HDFC Bank formed a Secondary Loan Market Association (SLMA) with an online platform for trading corporate loans in the secondary market. Sanjay Srivastava is the Chairman of SLMA.
- **AU Small Finance Bank** unveiled its first integrated marketing communication Campaign, titled '**BADLAAV Humse Hai**'.
- **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA)** has partnered with **Bank of America** to launch a Centre for Digital Transformation (**CDT**).
- **Central Bank of India (CBoI)** and Dhanvarsha Finvest Ltd (DFL) entered into a strategic co-lending partnership to offer loans against gold ornaments under priority sector lending to MSME borrowers.
- **DBS Bank India** partnership with ODeX India Solutions Pvt. Ltd to introduce '**ODeX Pay Later Solutions**' powered by DBS to provide credit solutions to Freight forwarders.
- **Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB)** launched '**Equitech**', a fintech accelerator programme for the start-up entrepreneurs ecosystem.
- **Google** partnered with **SETU**, a fintech company, to enable its users to open fixed deposits (FDs) through Google Pay.
- Housing Development Finance Corporation (**HDFC**) Ltd introduced a fixed deposit (**FD**) named '**Green & Sustainable Deposits**' to safeguard the environment from climate change. The Fixed deposit period ranges from 36-120 months. Both residents and Non-resident Indians (NRIs) are eligible to invest. The deposits would carry interest rates up to **6.55 percent** per annum.
- **HDFC Bank** and **Paytm**, made a partnership to share their network and provide digital lending and payment solutions for consumers and merchants across India.
- **ICICI Bank Germany** launched a digital and instant '**Blocked Account**' named '**ICICI Bank Germany Student Blocked Account**' for the Indian students who are aspiring to study in Germany.
- **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**, launched the pilot run/soft of '**International Bullion Exchange**'. It was planned to go live on the Foundation Day of IFSCA.
- **Indifi** partnered with Facebook India to launch 1st of its Kind Small Business Loans Programme. It will provide loans worth INR 5 lakh to 50 lakh for Small Businesses advertising in Facebook's Platform.
- **Karnataka Bank** launched its **KBL FASTag** in association with the National Payment Corporation of India(NPCI) and M/s Worldline, the FASTag processor.

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)** in partnership with Creditas Solutions launched a secure Digital Repayment 'Neo Collections' Platform for missed loan repayments named 'Do It Yourself (DIY)'.
- **LoanTap** launched its 1st LIMITLESS Credit line backed Prepaid Card in partnership with SBM Bank (State Bank of Mauritius) as a Banking Partner and RuPay as the Payment Network.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** announced the launch of a strategic campaign named #FollowPayment Distancing by RuPay to promote and encourage contactless payments among customers.
- **NABARD** partnered with the Central Warehousing Corporation (**CWC**) through the NAB Foundation, to offer storage facilities for the Farmers Producer Organisation (**FPOs**) at lower rates for the next 5 years
- **NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL)** partnered with the UAE (United Arab Emirates)-based Mashreq Bank to provide the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the mobile-based real-time payment system, in the UAE.
- As per the report of SIDBI and Transunion-Cibil, MSME Pulse – Edition XII, the **value of new loans** disbursed to the MSME sector in FY21 (COVID-19 period) was **Rs.9.5 lakh crore**, 40% higher than Rs.6.8 lakh crore in FY20 (pre-COVID-19 period).
- NSE International Exchange (**NSE IFSC**) appointed **BSO** as its **1st** official international approved connectivity partner i.e. International Network Carrier (INC).
- **SEBI** merged 2 debt securities regulations viz, SEBI (Issue and Listing of Debt Securities) Regulations, 2008 and SEBI (Non-Convertible Redeemable Preference Shares) Regulations, 2013 into a single Regulation called – SEBI (**Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities**) Regulations, 2021.
- **SEBI** reduced the minimum application value of real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) to the range of **Rs 10,000-15,000** from Rs 50,000 for REITs and Rs 1 lakh for InvITs.
- **SEBI** amended the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (**LODR**)) **Regulations, 2015** named LODR (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2021 which related to the process of appointment/removal of **Independent directors** (IDs).
- **SEBI** set up a panel of experts to analyse the process of shifting India's **trade settlement cycle** from the current T+2 (Trade plus 2 days) to **T+1** (Trade plus 1 day).
- **SEBI** allowed payments banks to carry out the activities of investment. Non-scheduled payments banks, which have prior approval from RBI, will be eligible to act as **Bankers to an Issue** (BTI) .
- **SEBI Board Approved List** of Key Amendments, Initiatives
 - List of Approved Amendments and frameworks:
 - Introduced Framework for Accredited Investors
 - Amendment to SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996
 - Relaxed the Limit of Sweat Equity Norms on New-age Tech Companies
 - A shift from 'Promoter' to 'controlling shareholders'
 - Amendment to SAST Regulations
 - Amendment to SEBI (AIF) Regulations, 2012
 - Relaxed the lock-in period for promoters' investments
- **SIDBI** in collaboration with Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom (FCDO UK) has launched the **Swavalamban Challenge Fund** (SCF) to promote entrepreneurship.
- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB)** launched a Savings Account named '**Health and Wellness Savings Account**' to support under medical emergencies.
- **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** and the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) partnered with Kotak Mahindra bank (KMB) for USD 50 Million (≅ INR 372 crore) **loan Guarantee** for Women Entrepreneurs and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across India
- **World Bank** and partners announce a New Global Fund for Cybersecurity named Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund under the broader Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella program.
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** unveiled the 4th edition of the Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda '**EASE 4.0**' (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) for 2021-22 – tech-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking. She also unveiled the annual report for the PSB Reforms Agenda '**EASE 3.0**' for 2020-21 and gave awards for best performing banks on the EASE 3.0 Banking Reforms Index.

i. Award-Winning PSB on EASE 3.0 Banking Reforms Index:

Rank	EASE Reforms Index Award 2021	Award for Best Improvement from The March Baseline Performance
1	State Bank of India (SBI)	Indian Bank
2	Bank of Baroda (BOB)	Union Bank of India
3	Union Bank of India (UBI)	Punjab National Bank

ii. Theme wise Top 3 Award-winning PSBs under EASE 3.0

Rank	Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4	Theme 5
	Smart Lending for Aspiring India	Tech-enabled ease of banking	Institutionalizing Prudent Banking	Governance and outcome centric HR	Deepening FI and customer protection
1	BOB	SBI	BOB	UBI	UBI
2	SBI	BOB	Punjab National Bank (PNB)	PNB	SBI
3	UBI	UBI	Canara Bank	SBI	BOB

The government's 4R strategy of Recognition, Resolution, Recapitalization and Reform has improved the performance of PSBs in FY21.

Indicators	FY21
Net Profit	Rs 31,820 crore
Gross NPAs	9.1% (14.58% – March 2018)
Net NPA	3.1% (7.97% – March 2018)
Provision Coverage Ratio	84% (62.7% – March 2018)
Capital Adequacy	14.04%
Amount raised as debt and equity	Rs 58,697 crore (in which Rs 10,543 crore as equity alone)

JULY 2021

- **Aeldra Financial Inc.**, a 'digital neo bank' proposed a United States (US) bank account with a Mastercard Global Debit Card for the Indian students who are preparing to get admission in the US.
- **Drip Capital** collaborated with SBM Bank India to offer customised trade financing solutions to empower Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) exporters in India.
- **Easiloan Techno Solutions Pvt. Ltd.** launched 'Easiloan Instant Match' application for home loans. and is the housing finance industry's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology-based selection and recommendation engine for home buyers.
- **FlexiLoans.com** collaborated with Google Pay, Google's payment app, to offer digital and feasible loans to Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- **FREO** made a partnership with HDB Financial Services (HDBFS) to provide 2 credit products such as a 'credit line' and a 'high-ticket personal loan' up to Rs 10 lakh for its customers.
- **HDFC Bank**, in collaboration with Common Services Centres (CSC) e-Governance India Ltd launched a '**Dukandar Overdraft Scheme**' to provide financial assistance up to **Rs 10 lakh** to small retailers.
 - **HDFC Bank** partnered with **Creditas Solutions** to offer a guided and customised digital debt management solution with a self-service credit portal for its loan and credit card customers under COVID-19.
- **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** issued a framework for setting up and operating an 'International Trade Finance Services' (ITFS) platform to provide trade finance services at International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs).
- **BUSY**, a business accounting software has collaborated with ICICI ((Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) Bank for banking solutions.
- **ICICI Bank** launched a co-branded credit card with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) named '**ICICI Bank HPCL Super Saver Credit Card**'. The card is powered by VISA.
- **IndusInd Bank** partnered with the TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (**TPCODL**), to introduce a fully digital network to enable digital payment of electricity bills across 300 semi-urban and rural regions of Odisha.

- **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** invested \$16.5 million (~Rs 123 crore) in MedGenome, to increase the access to COVID-19 testing, support research (to better help understand the virus), and manage future outbreaks.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank(KMB)** has automated its partner payments process with the end to end payout solution 'Hyperform' of Act21 Software.
- **Mastercard** and **Axis Bank** launched 'One Mumbai Metro Card' for Mumbai People (Mumbaikars) to enable cashless and contactless travel.
- **Network People Services Technology (NPST)** received a Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) registration from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for its TimePay solution.
- **NIIT Institute of Finance Banking and Insurance (NIIT IFBI) and Axis Bank** made a partnership and launched an 18-week fintech professional programme under the 'Axis Bank – NIIT Digital Banking Academy'.
- **NSDL Payments Bank** has partnered with Multilink to build agent points across India to boost the banking facilities in rural and semi-urban areas of India through the Neo banking system.
- **Paytm**, in partnership with **Aditya Birla Finance Ltd.**, launched a small-ticket instant loans service named 'Postpaid Mini'.
- **PayU**, partnered with **WooCommerce** to enable the WooCommerce merchants with the digital payment's infrastructure, and end-to-end digitized business process.
- **PhonePe** partnered with **Flipkart**, the e-commerce major, and launched a contactless 'Scan and Pay' feature to digitise Flipkart's pay-on-delivery (cash-on-delivery) orders payment.
- **Razorpay in partnership with Mastercard** launched a recurring payment interface named 'MandateHQ', to support card-issuing banks that wish to enable recurring payments for its customers.
- **SEBI** approved the amendments and frameworks that are made relating to independent directors (IDs), mutual fund (MF) regulations, and others at its board meeting.
 - Amendment to SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996
 - Framework for Accredited Investors in securities market
 - Amendment over the norms on IDs
 - Amendments to SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations
 - Amendments to SEBI (InvITs and REITs) Regulations
 - Permitting Resident Indian fund managers to be constituents of FPIs
 - Merging of 'Debt securities Listing' Regulations...[Click here for more detail..](#)
- SEBI introduced Expected Loss (EL) based RatingScale for the Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs). The EL-based rating symbols were divided into a scale of 7 levels, spanning from lowest to highest expected loss.
- **SIDBI** has rolled out multiple measures to support COVID-19 hit MSMEs. 'Timely Working Capital Assistance to Revitalise Industries in Times of Corona Crisis' (TWARIT) and PRAYAAS Scheme are said to be the major initiatives of SIDBI.....[Click here for more detail..](#)
 - **SIDBI has entered** into an MoU with the 'Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship' (**GAME**) to help MSMEs. [Click here to know more.](#)
- **Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT)** launched '**SWIFT Go**' to enable seamless Low-Value Cross-Border Payments anywhere in the world from their bank accounts.
- **U GRO Capital** made a **Co-lending** partnership with Bank of Baroda to lend Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) at a competitive rate of interest with reduced turn-around time.
- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB)** partnered with LoanTap Financial Technologies Pvt. Ltd., a digital lender, to provide personal loans to salaried professionals.
- **World Bank** enhanced its available funding by \$8 billion for COVID-19 vaccine purchases and deployment to \$20 billion over next 18 months i.e., through 2022 from a previous target of \$12 billion.

JUNE 2021

- **Federal Bank** launched an exclusive NR (Non-Resident) savings account scheme for the seafarer segment.
 - **Federal Bank** expanded its collaboration with **Oracle** and **Infosys** to provide improved customer experience through the Oracle CX (Customer Experience) platform.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** enhanced the overseas investment limit for a mutual fund (MF) house to USD 1 billion from the existing USD 600 million. The overall MF industry limit for investing overseas remained unchanged at USD 7 billion.

- **World Bank** approved a \$500 million programme 'Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Performance' (RAMP), to strengthen the MSME sector.
 - **World Bank** approved a \$125 million program under the 'Resilient Kerala Program' to support Kerala's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, and COVID-19.
- **Indian Bank** partnered with Fisdom to offer its customers comprehensive wealth management products and services.
 - **Indian Bank** launched its kind flagship Business Mentoring Program named 'MSME Prerana' in Maharashtra.
- **Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited Mutual Fund (HDFC MF)** launched the New Fund Offer(NFO) of HDFC Banking and Financial Services Fund for retail investors.
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** joined with Ambuja Cements Ltd joins hands with for the implementation of its 'Employability through Skill Initiative Project (ESIP) Phase II.
- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB)** collaborated with MoEngage to drive digital banking experiences in the unserved and underserved regions of the country.
- **ICICI Bank** launched a first-of-its-kind initiative, a comprehensive set of digital banking solutions named – **ICICI STACK** for corporate.
 - **ICICI Bank** extended the instant '**Cardless EMI**' facility for its pre-approved customers to make **online** purchases across 2,500 e-commerce platforms without using their card.
- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has issued guidelines for the participation of Mutual Fund (MF) schemes in Interest Rate Swaps (IRS).
 1. SEBI allowed MFs to enter into plain vanilla IRS for hedging purposes.
 2. The 10 percent limit for a single counterparty is not applicable for the IRS by MF through an electronic trading platform.
- **IDFC First Bank** has launched an Employee-funded relief program named 'Ghar Ghar Ration', for its low-income customers whose livelihoods are affected due to COVID-19.
- **FlexiLoans.com** partnered with **Retailio** to provide working capital loans to more than 1,00,000 retailers and distributors across the country.
- **Paisabazaar.com** launched the 'Step Up Credit Card', a credit-builder product, to meet the credit needs of underserved segments.
- **YES Bank & Afthonia Lab private Limited** became strategic partners with the to support the fintech companies in India.
- **As per the data of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**, the bank credit-to-GDP ratio of India in 2020 rose to a 5-year high of about 56.075 percent (whereas in 2016 the ratio was at 59 percent).
- **Mastercard** made a strategic equity investment in Instamojo to digitize and empower Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and gig workers by providing 'easy to use solutions.
- **IndusInd Bank** launched the "**IndusEasyCredit**", a comprehensive digital lending platform to enable the customers to meet their financial needs from their home.
- **HSBC** has announced that it is withdrawing from the retail and small business banking market in the United States (US).
- **Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK)** selected Tata Consultancy Services'(TCS) 'TCS BaNCS' Treasury solution to transform its operations, enhance risk management, offer a new generation of asset class coverage, and ensure regulatory compliance.

MAY 2021

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has committed \$3.92 billion in sovereign loans for 13 projects to India in 2020.
 - **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has launched the 'Asia Pacific Tax Hub' to enhance International Tax Cooperation.
- **ZebPay** launched India's 1st lending platform under the cryptocurrency exchange for the investors to invest their coins and earn returns (interest).

- **Canara Bank** launched 3 loan schemes such as Canara Chikitsa healthcare credit facility, Canara Jeevanrekha healthcare business loan, and Canara Suraksha personal loan scheme against COVID-19.
- **UCO Bank** Alloted Preferential Shares to Govt for Rs 2,600 crore Capital Infusion.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** became the 1st bank to issue Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPI) license to an Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) incorporated in Gujarat International Finance Tec (**GIFT**) International Financial Services Centre (**IFSC**).
- **IDBI Bank Limited** announced the launch of its fully digitised, end-to-end, Loan Processing System (LPS) for its Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Agri products.
- **HSBC India** has launched first-of-its-kind Digital Banking Solution (DBS) called **HSBC SmartServe and HSBC IntelliSign**.
- **HDFC Bank** has announced that it will raise up to Rs 7,000 crore by issuing bonds on private placement basis.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB) and PNB Housing Finance Limited (PNB Housing)** made a fresh brand agreement, to provide PNB with the right to withdraw its brand name from PNB Housing.
- **Airtel Payments Bank** in partnership with SafeGold, a digital gold provider, launched a digital platform called 'DigiGold' – for its customers to make an investment in gold.
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** provided a record high amount of Rs 1,236 crore from its Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of FY2 for the Rural Connectivity Projects (Roads & Bridges) in Assam.
 - **NABARD** gave financial support of Rs. 9,162 crores to West Bengal for the development of agriculture and allied sectors under Covid-19.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has mandated Key employees of AMCs to pay 20 percent of their salary in units of mutual fund schemes in which they have a role/oversight.
 - **SEBI** issued a Consultation Paper detailing the Proposed framework for the Gold Exchange in India and the draft SEBI (Vault Managers) Regulations, 2021 for regulating the gold exchange-related business of the Vault Managers.
 - **SEBI** reviewed the regulatory framework of the promoter, promoter group and group companies as per SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements (**ICDR**)) Regulations, 2018.
 - A technical group (TG) under the chairmanship of Harsh Bhanwala on Social Stock Exchanges (SSEs), constituted by SEBI not Allowed Political, religious firms for SSE.
 - **SEBI** has imposed a penalty of Rs 5.25 crore on Cairn India for making a misleading announcement regarding the buyback of shares on January 14, 2014.
 - **SEBI Doubled the Overall limit** for Overseas Investment by Alternative Investment Funds (**AIFs**), Venture Capital Funds(**VCFs**) from \$750 million to \$1,500 million.
- **Google Pay** has launched International Money Transfers for its United States (US) users, it has launched the initiative in partnership with remittance firms – Wise, and Western Union Co.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has onboarded PayCore, Turkey's global payment company as one of the certified partners for 'RuPay SoftPOS' to drive cashless payments across the country.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), ICICI Bank** has launched a facility for linking a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ID with its digital wallet, 'Pockets'.
- **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)**, an arm of RBI, is building a next-generation Digital Financial Infrastructure," National Digital Financial Infrastructure (**NADI**)".
- **PayPal** introduced an automated process to receive monthly Foreign Inward Remittance Advice (**FIRA**), allowing Indian merchants to download their monthly digital FIRA issued by banks.
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has launched SHWAS & AROG, two new quick credit delivery schemes to help Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services (MMFS)** has extended the date of investment of the third and final tranche for the acquisition of shares of Ideal Finance Ltd

- **Muthoot Finance Limited** collaborated with NIRA, a Bangalore-based fintech start-up to strengthen its digital footprint and enhance the personal loans growth.
- **Federal Bank** has entered into a strategic tie-up with Mashreq Bank of UAE, to facilitate money transfers from the UAE to India.
- **Bajaj Finance** got authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the issuance and operation of semi-closed Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) with perpetual validity.
- **HDFC Bank and Common Services Centers (CSCs)** announced the launch of a chatbot called 'Eva' on CSC's Digital Seva Portal to support Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs).
- **Bajaj Finserv** launched 'Savdhan Rahein, Safe Rahein', a public awareness campaign on financial fraud risks to educate customers and public at large on financial fraud risks across digital platforms.
- Labour Ministry notified the changes in the investment pattern of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (**EPFO**), which allowed it to make an investment of up to 5% of its investible surplus in Alternative Investment Funds (**AIFs**).
- **Mastercard and 'Gemini'**, a cryptocurrency exchange made partnership along with 'WebBank', a leading digital lender launches a first of its kind cryptocurrency rewards credit card.
- **CtrlS Partners with Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance** as Strategic Technology Partner to Provide Technology Solutions.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** was selected as a digital payments partner by the **National Agriculture Market (eNAM)** to facilitate online transactions for all stakeholders.
- **Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd (ESFBL)** became the first Small Finance Bank (SFB) to offer the online process of account opening for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
- **Yes Bank** digitises onboarding of credit card customers by implementing TransUnion's Onboarding Solution.
- **Axis Mutual Fund** launched a mutual fund scheme called **Axis Global Innovation Fund of Fund** for investors to invest in Schroder International Selection Fund (SISF) Global Disruption.

APRIL 2021

- **Axis Bank** approved the reclassification of New India Assurance Co Ltd (NIACL) from promoter category to public category investor.
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** had provided \$1.5 billion (~Rs 1.11 lakh crore) to India in supporting the response to tackle covid-19.
- **ICICI Bank and SBI Cards** have a strong growth in new Credit card issuance from Dec. 2020 to Feb. 2021, after the temporary halt of HDFC Bank Ltd from issuing new cards from December 2020.
- **ICICI Bank** launched 'Merchant Stack', a digital banking services as a continuation of its 'ICICI Stack', for retail merchants especially for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Entrepreneurs.
- **SBI Mutual Fund** launched SBI Nifty Next 50 Index Fund an open-ended index scheme.
- **International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA)** allowed the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) to start their operations in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (**GIFT City**).
- **Indian Bank** made an agreement with The Chennai Angels, an angel investment group to support the Start-ups under the program 'IND Spring Board'.
- **Mastercard and Bank of Baroda Financial Solutions (BFSL)** jointly to launch World's 1st QR on Card Program, 'ConQR' – a Mastercard QR on Card solution to simplify digital payments of Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- **FirstRand Bank**, the second largest bank in South Africa has decided to withdraw its banking services from India just within a week of Citi banks exit.
- **Tata Steel Ltd and HSBC**, a banking and financial services organisation, executed the global first blockchain-enabled paperless transaction in steel industry.
- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** appointed Ernst & Young Global Limited, a multinational professional services network as its digital consultant.
- **Bitex, the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** based Cryptocurrency exchange became the First Cryptocurrency Exchange in India to Provide Investment Declaration Reports.

- **Fi, a NeoBank** will be launched for salaried millennials by Google pay creators partners along with Federal Bank.
- **Citi bank** headquartered in New York has announced to exit its consumer banking operations in India.
- **ETMONEY** launched India's first Aadhaar-based Systematic Investment Plan(SIP) payments feature.
- **As per the National Housing Bank's (NHB) report "The Trend and Progress of Housing in India"** April 2021. The market share of banks in individual housing loans(IHLs) has gone up to 67% in 2019-20 from 62% in 2017-18 and housing finance companies (HFCs) has come down to 33%(2019-20) from 38% (2017-18).
- **National Housing Bank (NHB)** has launched Rs.10,000 crore 'Special Refinance Facility-2021' (SRF-2021) Scheme for Housing Finance Companies (HFC) and Primary Lending Institutions (PLI) .
- **YES Bank** executed its first Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked trade borrowing transaction from an American Lender Wells Fargo Bank.
- **Airtel Payments Bank** announced its new savings account 'Rewards123' which offers benefits and value to customers when they transact digitally using the bank account.
- **International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Policy Panel** has authorized a USD 650 billion expansion of its International Reserve Asset (known as Special Drawing Rights (SDR)).
 - IMF reported an increase in India's debt to GDP ratio from 74 percent (at the end of 2019) to 90 percent (at the end of 2020) during the COVID-19 period.
- **'Mobisafar Virtual RuPay Prepaid card'**- Mobisafar Services Private Limited, a Fintech start-up made a partnership with YES BANK & with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for Rupay to launch this card.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** modified its framework on contribution to set up Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC) by Asset Management Companies (AMCs) of Mutual Funds(MFs).
 - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has revised the reporting formats for mutual funds with new guidelines based on the consultation from the industry.
 - SEBI Imposed Rs 25 crore penalty to YES Bank for AT-1 Bonds Misselling.
- **U GRO Capital & SBM Bank India** jointly launched "GRO Smart Business" credit card for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- **National Payments Corporation of India(NPCI)** has framed a new rule that 30% market cap on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions for third-party app providers (TPAPs).
 - NPCI formed its wholly-owned subsidiary firm called NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) to offer recurring payment services.

MARCH 2021

- **Union Bank of India** launched first of its kind 'UNI-CARBON CARD', a credit card that is co-branded by HPCL.
- **BharatPe, a fintech company** for merchants launched its lending product- Distributor to Retailer (D2R) Finance, to provide instant liquidity to empower Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
- **Yes Bank** in partnership with SHEROES, a women led social network launched "YES Essence Plus" a unique accelerator program to support the women entrepreneurs and women led startups.
- **Niyo, a digital banking fintech**, has partnered Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFBL) and Visa launched NiyoX, a mobile banking solution for millennials.
- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** launched a savings account named 'IOB Trendy' which is customised for the millennial population of the country to meet their banking preferences.
- **NABSanrakshan Trustee Pvt Ltd (NTPL)**, the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development(NABARD) has been appointed by the Government as a trustee for Rs 750 crore Credit Guarantee Fund under Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF).

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has raised over USD 307 Million (~ INR 2232 Crore or Chinese Yuan Renminbi (CNY) 2 billion) from the 1st Panda bond issue in more than a decade.
- **Paytm**, launched “Smart PoS” a new application for accepting contactless payments through smartphones.
 - Paytm also launched the second version of its Internet of Things (IoT) based instant voice conformation device, “**Soundbox 2.0**”.
- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB)** launched “Garima Saving Accounts”, a women Saving Account to provide the financial needs of women.
- **Axis Bank** launched a wearable program named ‘Wear ‘N’ Pay’, to make contactless transactions.
- **HDFC Bank** has launched “SmartUp Unnati”, a mentoring program by women for women entrepreneurs.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):-**
 - NPCI launched ‘UPI-Help’ on BHIM UPI, a part of its Digi-Help stack.
 - NPCI partnered with SBI Payments to launch the ‘RuPaySoftPoS’ solution.
- **World Bank (WB)** is planning to launch a \$100-million (~727 Crore Indian Rupees) credit guarantee scheme along with the State Bank of India (SBI) and the MSME ministry.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):-**
 - It eased norms for large companies by enabling to divest minimum 5% in the IPO (Initial public offering), instead of 10%. Also, for raising the public float to 25%, the term has increased to 5 years instead of 3 years.
 - SEBI had formed the Group of Experts under its Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC) to check the feasibility to implement Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs) like structures in India.
 - SEBI in its circular set a limit for Mutual Funds (MF’s) investment to 10% in debt instruments and 5% for single issuers and stated the maturity for perpetual bonds as 100 years.
 - SEBI has approved ‘Paytm UPI’ handle to enable fast and seamless payment mandates for IPO applications to benefit millions of users to invest in capital markets.
 - SEBI amended the valuation rule of Perpetual Bonds (Additional Tier-1(AT-1) and Tier-2 Bonds). As per the amendments, the deemed residual maturity of Basel III additional tier-1(AT-1) bonds are to be 10 years until March 31, 2022, and would be increased to 20 and 30 years over the subsequent six-month period.
 - SEBI along with the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL) framed a new penal structure for the commodity derivatives segment in the event of delivery default.
 - ❖ In agricultural and non-agricultural commodities, the penalty for delivery default by the seller will now be 4% and 3% of the settlement price plus replacement cost, respectively.
 - SEBI introduce relaxations to the framework of Innovators Growth Platform (IGP) and made amendments to SEBI regulations such as Delisting of Equity Shares and Alternative Investment Funds.
- **Rupee Co-operative Bank Ltd.**, Pune, Maharashtra received 3 months extension for its banking license from RBI till May 31, 2021.
- **Fino Payments Bank Limited** has been included by Reserve Bank of India in the Second Schedule to the RBI Act, 1934. With this inclusion, Fino Payments bank gets the status of scheduled commercial bank.

FEBRUARY 2021

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd** launched its outward forex remittance service, Kotak Remit. In an industry-first move, Kotak Remit is live on the Kotak Mobile Banking App.
- **Mastercard** launched its Flagship ‘Priceless’ program – “Priceless India”.

INSURANCE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021

- Government of India has appointed **10 merchant bankers** for managing Initial Public Offering (**IPO**) of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). 10 merchant bankers are: Goldman Sachs (India) Securities; Citigroup Global Markets India; Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities India; SBI Capital Market; JM Financial; Axis Capital; BofA Securities; JP Morgan India; ICICI Securities; Kotak Mahindra Capital Co Ltd.
- A Composite Broking Licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is being provided to **Hero Insurance Broking India Pvt. Ltd. (HIBIPL)**.

AUGUST 2021

- **SBI General Insurance** collaborated with Manipal Business Solutions, the promoter of SahiPay to expand its non-life penetration in rural areas.
- **SBI Life Insurance** launched a new Individual, Non-Linked, Non-Participating Life Insurance solution named 'SBI Life eShield Next'.

JULY 2021

- **Max Bupa Health Insurance and Axis Bank** entered into a bancassurance partnership to provide comprehensive health insurance solutions to its customers and employees.
- **HDFC ERGO** General Insurance launched a policy named 'Optima Secure' to redefine the values of insurance plans that would be obtained by customers. The plan offers broad coverage from 5 Lacs to 2 Crores.
- **LIC of India** launched a non-linked, non-participating, single premium, individual 'immediate annuity plan' named 'Saral pension plan' as per the guidelines of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- **LIC Cards Services Ltd (LIC CSL)** in partnership with IDBI Bank launched LIC CSL 'Lumine' Platinum Credit Card & LIC CSL 'Eclat' Select Credit Card, powered by RuPay Credit Cards.
- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** launched a non-linked, non-participating, regular premium, individual, health insurance plan named – 'Arogya Rakshak' to provide fixed benefit health insurance cover against certain specified health risks.
- **Max Bupa Health Insurance company** limited which was renamed as Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited has rebranded itself as 'Niva Bupa'.
- **SBI General Insurance** launched a comprehensive health insurance plan named 'Arogya Supreme' where the insured persons will get a wide range of sum insured options up to Rs 5 crore.

JUNE 2021

- **Central Government has extended the COVID-19 Warriors Insurance scheme** under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) for Health workers fighting COVID-19 for a period of one year.
- **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited has collaboration with PayNearby** and launched 'Poorna Suraksha' to safeguard its 15+ lakh Retail Partners. It offers a life cover of Rs 2 lakhs, disability cover of Rs 1 lakh and hospital cash of Rs 15,000.
- **Policybazaar** has got approval from regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to function as an insurance broker.
- **LIC Cards Services Limited (LIC CSL)** partnered with IDBI Bank to launch "**Shagun**", a contactless prepaid LIC gift card powered by the IDBI Bank on the RuPay platform.
- **Navi General Insurance Limited** introduced an Equated Monthly Installments (EMI) subscription-based health insurance in Kerala.
- **Clovia**, in partnership with Alliance Insurance, launched a 1st of its kind tailor-made insurance policy, named 'Women's cancer shield' for breast cancer female patients.
- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has launched a centralized web-enabled workflow-based IT platform for its group business operations named 'e-PGS'.

MAY 2021

- **Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI)**, an InsurTech start-up has launched, Integrated Partner Onboarding Solution (IPOS) an industry-first digital end to end partner onboarding solution.
- **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI)**, the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), launched a flexible savings plan named 'Vision LifeIncome Plus Plan'.
- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has issued guidelines on Bharat Yatra Suraksha, the Standard Domestic Travel Insurance Product (SDTIP) of India.

APRIL 2021

- **Central Government has extended the COVID-19 Warriors Insurance scheme** under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) for Health workers fighting COVID-19 for a period of one year.
- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has amended rules for the local insurers to make investments in the fund of funds (FoFs) in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
 - IRDAI has extended the validity of Regulatory Sandbox for 2 years as per the IRDAI (Regulatory Sandbox) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021.
 - IRDAI allowed insurers to invest in debt securities issued by infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) and real estate investment trusts (REITs).

MARCH 2021

- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has hiked the maximum cover under the standard health insurance plan – Arogya Sanjeevani Policy – from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.
- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** of India has launched Bachat Plus, a Non-Linked, Participating, Individual Savings Plan.
- **Aditya Birla Health Insurance Company Limited (ABHICL)** has announced India's first initiatives of upto 100% health insurance premium returns under its Flagship product 'Activ Health Policy'.
- **Central Government amended Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017** under section 24 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999. The amended rules are called as 'Insurance Ombudsman (Amendment) Rules, 2021'.
- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance**, a non-life insurance company in the private sector, launched a Business Kisht Suraksha.

FEBRUARY 2021

- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India** launched 'Bima Jyoti' Plan (Plan No. 860) a Non-linked, Non-Participating, Individual, Limited Premium Payment, Life Insurance Savings Plan.
- **Bharti AXA General Insurance** has launched 'Salute to Caregivers – Ek Naya Nazariya Campaign' to support the cancer survivors in the battle against cancer.
- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** launched a new goal-based savings product 'ICICI Pru Guaranteed Income for Tomorrow' (GIFT).
- **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd** launched its 1st 'Corporate India Risk Index 2020' to enable companies to understand the level of risk and current readiness their business is facing. India's Corporate India Risk Index stands at 57.
 - ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd partnered with Flipkart to offer Group SafeGuard insurance, a group insurance policy to its consumers and their families.
- **Star Health & Allied Insurance Co. Ltd** launched its Arogya Sanjeevani policy on PhonePe to cover the most necessary aspects of any kind of hospitalization in the family for Phone pe users.
- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** issued guidelines on Standard Vector Borne Disease Health Policy to encourage all general and health insurers to offer this product.
 - **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) annual report 2019-20**, the claim settlement ratio of Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC) declined in FY20 to 96.6% from 97.7% in FY19.

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) issued guidelines on Standard Personal Accident Insurance Product named 'Saral Suraksha Bima', succeeded by name of insurance company under the provisions of Section 34 (1) (a) of Insurance Act, 1938.

JANUARY 2021

- **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** in association with Jammu & Kashmir Government launches health insurance coverage under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) Social, Endeavour for Health, and Telemedicine (SEHAT).
- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has mandated General Insurance Companies to offer 3 Insurance Products namely – Bharat Griha Raksha, Bharat Sookshma Udyam Suraksha & Bharat Laghu Udyam Suraksha to cover risk of fire & allied perils.
- **Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Limited** has joined hands with Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation (JKIDFC) to initiate insurance covers for Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh customers.
- IRDAI formulated a 10-member advisory committee to improve the product quality and coverage of the health insurance in the country. The committee will be chaired by IRDAI chairman (Presently Dr. Subhash Chandra Khuntia).

APP's/PORTAL LAUNCHED

APP Name	Launched by	Key Points
SEPTEMBER 2021		
Bob World	Bank of Baroda(BoB)	To offer all banking services on a single platform. It is the revamped Mobile Banking application of BOB, was previously known as M-Connect Plus.
AUGUST 2021		
Digital Prayaas app	Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)	It is an App based end to end digital lending tool platform to sanction loans to entrepreneurs from low income group (especially the people at the bottom of the pyramid) by the end of the day.
Ananda (Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application) mobile app	Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India	It works as a tool for the on-boarding process to get the life insurance policy via paperless format.
JULY 2021 , JUNE 2021 & MAY 2021		

APRIL 2021		

MARCH 2021		
SMEInsure	Alliance Insurance	It is a portal to insure 5 crore Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) under the insurance category.
FEBRUARY 2021		
India's BRICS 2021 website (https://brics2021.gov.in/about-brics.html)	External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar	He launched at the BRICS Secretariat at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, Delhi. India assumed the presidency of BRICS for 2021. Russia was the chair of BRICS for 2020. BRICS celebrates its 15th anniversary under the theme 'Intra-BRICS Cooperation'.
YONO Merchant App	SBI Payment Services Pvt. Ltd	to expand the digitization of merchant payments in India. Through the app, merchants can turn their Near Field

Communication (NFC)-enabled Android smartphones into payment acceptance devices.

JANUARY 2021

InstaFX	ICICI Bank	allows authorised money changers, who are the partners of the bank to help customers of any bank to obtain 'ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card' quickly.
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MOU'S/AGREEMENTS SIGNED BY BANKS/FINANCIAL SERVICE

Banks/Insurance firm	Signed With	Key Points
SEPTEMBER 2021		
HDFC Bank	National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)	To offer credit support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across the country
Bank of India (BOI)	MAS Financial Services Limited	For MSME to offer Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) loan
India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)	LIC Housing Finance Ltd (Life Insurance Corporation of India-HFL)	To provide home loans to over 4.5 crore customers of the former.
HDFC Bank	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA)	To provide facilities to manage up to 300 metric tonnes of dry waste in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
IndusInd Bank	Escorts Limited	To offer financial services to farmers and to make its range of tractors and farm equipment more accessible.
Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)	Assam	Launched an innovation fund to promote start-ups. Under the Cluster Development Fund (CDF) an agreement of Rs 350 crore was signed to promote 'One district- One- product initiative.
AUGUST 2021		
Indian Bank	Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Bombay	To provide a credit facility to the startups and small businesses through its loan product 'IND Spring Board'.
Jana Small Finance Bank (Jana SFB)	HCBL Co-operative Bank and Mysore Merchants Co-operative Bank	Under the bank sponsorship programme of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
Afcons Infrastructure Ltd,	Republic of Maldives	For a \$530 million infrastructure project named 'Greater Male Connectivity Project' (GMCP)
MeitY Startup Hub (MSH), under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics and	Paytm	To support deep tech startups.

Information Technology(MeitY)		
Indian Bank	Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)	To become one of the Banking Partners ahead of the Paralympic Games 2020 in Tokyo, Japan.
NABARD	State Bank of India (SBI) and Jammu and Kashmir Gramin Bank (JKGB)	To finance 1000 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and to enhance the flow of credit to tenant farmers, oral lessees, sharecroppers, Small and Marginal farmers (SF/MF), etc in the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and the UT of Ladakh.
International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)	India Insurtech Association (IIA)	To promote fintech for Indian and foreign insurance companies.
Asian Development Bank	IIFL (India Infoline) Home Finance Ltd	To reduce carbon emissions and preserve water and vitality in India.IIFL is the technical assistance of the program
IDFC FIRST Bank	Indian Navy	To offer the special defence savings account named 'Honour FIRST' for the serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy.
Bank of Baroda (BoB)	Andhra Pradesh (AP)	To assist & finance the entire 14,000 beneficiaries for setting up Aqua Units under AP Government's 'Fish Andhra' scheme
Punjab National Bank	National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)	To extend financial assistance to the fisheries sector through the bank
Indian Bank	NSRCEL (N S Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning)	To provide funding for identified startups under Indian Bank's 'Ind Spring Board' Scheme.
National Stock Exchange (NSE)	Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)	For enhance research efforts in the area of insolvency and bankruptcy.
North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi)	Federation of Industries of North Eastern Region (FINER)	To promote entrepreneurship, generate employment and create empowerment of weaker sections.
JULY 2021		
Axis Bank	Indian Army	To offer a defence service salary package to the latter under its 'Power Salute' initiative.
Bank of Baroda & Yes Bank	Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), Mathworks, Yourstory, Freshworks and Pontaq	To build a robust startup ecosystem in India.
Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)	National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development' (NABARD)	To foster the existing developmental initiatives that are linked to Priority Sector Lending (PSL) in Maharashtra.
Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB)	Indian Navy	To offer a salary account to all the personnel of the Indian Navy including both serving and retired personnel.
Indian Bank	IIT Guwahati Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) for financing Start-ups	For the bank's loan product 'IND Spring Board'.
Yes Bank	Indiabulls Housing Finance	This collaboration aimed to enhance capabilities of providing seamless experience to retail home loan customers.

NBFC (Non-Banking Financial Company) Prest Loans	U GRO Capital	Signed a strategic alliance agreement with to provide secured business loans to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) units.
JUNE 2021		
Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SFB) for	Bharti AXA Life Insurance	Distribution of its life insurance products through the bank's pan-India network of branches.
Central Bank of India	Edelweiss Retail Finance Ltd (ERFL)	For priority sector lending to Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
HDFC ERGO General Insurance	Visa	To provide curated insurance covers for Visa's business cardholders especially the MSMEs
Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	Luxembourg Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF)	For mutual co-operation and technical assistance.
Bombay Stock Exchange's (BSE) Mutual Funds(MF) Platform, BSE StAR MF	Godavari Urban Multi State Credit Co-Op Society Ltd (GUMCCSL)	To deepen its network of over 70,000 registered distributors.
Central Bank of India	Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited (Indiabulls HFL) and IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL)	To offer housing loans under priority sector to homebuyers.
HDFC Bank	Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB)	For 3 years with to provide a wide range of financial products and services to its customers.
PayPoint India	12 financial institutions viz, Punjab National Bank, ICICI Bank, Deutsche Bank, and Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) such as Bajaj Housing, Piramal Housing, and Hero Fincorp, among others.	To help the financial institutions to get access to the remote locations where they are unable to reach on their own, and provide capital.
Union Bank of India	National Small Industries Corporation Ltd (NSIC)	To support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with credit requirements.
SBI (State Bank of India) General Insurance	IDFC (Infrastructure Development Finance Company) FIRST Bank	For selling its non-life insurance products. In this regard, a corporate agency agreement was signed between both the entities.
Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)	Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME)	To address the challenges faced by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) amid COVID-19
MAY 2021		
PayNearby	Centrum Microcredit	The partnership made to offer unsecured Small Medium Business (SMB) loans to its retailers.
Vivriti Capital	FlexiLoans.com	Agreement made to provide working capital financing to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by disbursing loans worth Rs 300 crore.
India Post Payments Bank(IPPB)	Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited(MRHFL)	Both organisation was entered into a partnership for cash management solution.
PayPoint India	Digit General Insurance	Aims to provide affordable COVID-19 Health Insurance policy to its customers in India's underserved regions to improve the insurance access financial losses due to the COVID-19.
SoftBank Group Corp	OneWeb (a venture backed by Sunil Mittal)	They made agreement to promote its satellite communication services in the Global and Japan markets.
Punjab National Bank	Geojit Financial Services	The agreement aims to provide the advantage of a three-in-one account to the customers of PNB.

		(The Three Accounts are, Savings Account, a Demat Account and a Trading Account).
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Upgrad, an online up-skilling platform	IFC plan to invest USD 40 million (about Rs 290 crore) in Upgrad. Now, the promoters' holding in the firm came to 75 per cent after the investments of USD 160 million in April 2021
ICICI Bank	Decentro Tech Private Ltd	It aims to offer customized business banking APIs to fintechs, startups, and corporates and e-commerce companies.
APRIL 2021		
Indian Bank	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited(BSNL)	to provide telecom services to the bank at a competitive rate.
HSBC India	Google Pay(GPay) and Visa	to provide a secured tokenization on its credit cards.Contactless payments can be done by linking HSBC credit cards in Google Pay and it will help to avoid physical contact for payment.
Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Ltd	Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited (Indiabulls HFL)	Both companies entered into a strategic co-lending partnership to offer housing loans to homebuyers. The loans will be in the funding ratio of 80:20 in which 80% to HDFC and 20% with Indiabulls HFL.
Asian Development Bank(ADB)	Habitat for Humanity International	to help Microfinance Institutions(MFI) in providing housing loans to low income families in rural and semi urban areas of Bangladesh,India,Indonesia and Philippines.
Gramcovers,rural insurtechstartup	Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited(AICIL)	to identify and develop useful rural insurance products that could help farmers.
Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)	Paytm	to carry out its digital transactions.The partnership aims to hope with the increasing demand of digital payment.
RBL Bank	Mastercard	to provide first of its kind payment solution in India through the Pay by bank app.It is a mobile based consumer friendly payment solution.
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (USFB)	NIRA	to strengthen its digital footprint and onboard its customers for Personal Loans. This was USFB's first Digital Lending Partnership.
Bill Desk	J.P. Morgan ,Global Financial Institution	to provide online payments solutions to corporate clients of J.P. Morgan.
Punjab National Bank(PNB)	SwitchON Foundation	to offer finance to the marginal farmers for buying solar pumps.PNB will be financing solar pumps through the SwitchON Foundation's – First Loss Default Guarantee Fund.
Bharti Axa life insurance	Fincare Small Finance Bank(SFB) Limited	Joined hands for a bancassurance partnership under which the bank will sell insurance policies to its customers.
FlexiLoans.com	PayPal	to offer collateral-free business loans to MSMEs, freelancers, women entrepreneurs and sole proprietors.
Jana Small Finance Bank (Jana SFB)	Axis Securities, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Axis Bank,	To offer banking and investment services to its customers through a 3-in-1 account.It integrates the Savings Bank Account maintained by Jana

		Small Finance Bank & Demat and Trading Accounts maintained by Axis Securities
Northern Arc Capital Limited (NACL), India,	CDC Group, the UK government's development finance institution	CDC Group, the UK government's development finance institution, has made a partnership with NACL, leading digital debt platform in India for investing a total of Rs 320 crore under pooled bond issuance (PBI).
ICICI Bank	Axis Bank	Both tie up to launch a New Umbrella Entity (NUE) for retail payments along with Amazon and Visa as their partners.
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB)	nStore	to digitise offline retailers and small businesses in India. Ujjivan SFB will offer the mobile application 'nLincs' to its current account holders who own local businesses and enable them to sell their products online.
RBL Bank	Tide, UK based business banking fintech	to provide bank account infrastructure to Tide's India platform, which is focused to serve mainly small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
MARCH 2021		
International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)	to establish a framework for collaboration and co-operation for the development of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City ('GIFT') IFSC.
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	Tata Cleantech Capital Ltd (TCCL)	signed a Loan agreement for a maximum amount of 10 Billion Japanese Yen (~ INR 660 Crore) for offering loans to Indian firms focussing on Clean Energy Projects.
Standard Chartered Bank	International Air Transport Association (IATA)	To provide 'EasyPay' services to Travel Agents in India
Yes Bank	PNB Housing Finance	signed a strategic co-lending service to provide convenient and customized retail loans to homebuyers
Kotak Mahindra Bank	Indian Army	for providing salary accounts to all the active and retired army personnel.
Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)	National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE India)	for the cooperation in the various Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) initiatives of NSE and SIDBI and to explore the feasibility of debt Capital Platform for the MSMEs.
Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)	SBI General Insurance	IOB has signed a Bancassurance for the distribution of the non-life offerings with SBI General Insurance to offer a wide range of general insurance solutions and innovative products to the customers of the bank.
FEBRUARY 2021		
Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)	Government of Andhra Pradesh (AP)	to develop the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) ecosystem in AP.
World Bank	Government of Nagaland, India	for improving the governance of schools across Nagaland. The program is called 'Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project'.

Indian Bank	Society for Innovation and Development (SID), an initiative of Indian Institute of Science(IISc), Bengaluru	to provide exclusive credit facility to start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises(MSMEs).
Bank of Maharashtra(BoM)	Vayana Network	launched its Mahabank Channel Financing Scheme, a Channel Financing solution for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises(MSMEs).
Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)	PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry(PHDCCI)	to offer various credit & other schemes of SIDBI to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which is member of PHDCCI in India.
Indian Payments and Postal Bank (IPPB)	Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI)	to facilitate opening of bank accounts for construction workers and ensure accessible financial services for construction workers along with financial literacy and digital inclusion.
ICICI Bank	MUFG Bank Ltd, Japan	with to jointly cater the banking requirements of Japanese corporates present in India.
Bank of Maharashtra(BoM)	LoanTap Credit	to extend credit to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise(MSME) loans.Under this agreement, 80% of the loan will be braced by the bank and the remaining 20% by the Loan Tap.
Axis Bank	PhonePe	will enable the PhonePe users to create and use multiple UPI IDs with Axis Bank's "@axl" handle.
JANUARY 2021		
Ministry of Education (MoE), Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)	World Bank (WB)	for the implementation of Rs 5718 crore STARS project.Under the agreement, WB will provide US\$ 500 million (approximately Rs. 3700 crore) and the rest will be shared by participating states for a period of 5 years.
India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)	Financial Software and Systems (FSS)	to promote Financial Inclusion in underserved and unbanked segments of India.To attain this purpose, IPPB will use FSS' Aadhaar Enabled Payment System(AePS).
Central Bank of India (CBoI)	NABFOUNDATION	to provide working capital for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to undertake 'My Pad My Right' project, sponsored by NABARD.
Bank of Baroda (BoB)	Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)	to enable micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) customers of the former to apply online for one-time restructuring (OTR).
Bandhan Bank Ltd	Indian Army	The personnel of Indian Army will be provided the services through the banking outlets under Bandhan Bank Shaurya Salary Account.
Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI)	Tata Power	to provide a finance scheme to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in rooftop solar segment.

LOANS/FUNDS SANCTIONED BY BANKS/FINANCIAL SERVICE

Loan issued by	Received by	Amount	Points to be noted
SEPTEMBER 2021			
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	Northern Arc Capital (NAC)	\$50 million (~ Rs 368 crore)	To support the funding of Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) in India, that provide financial services to women.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Tamil Nadu	USD 150 million loan	For building sustainable housing projects for Urban Poor in
Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)	Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)	USD 100 million (Rs 730 crore)	This credit line will be utilized to develop infrastructure in the continent and boost economic betterment. Its tenure will be 10 years.
Exim Bank (Export-Import Bank of India)	Maldives	USD 40 million (~ Rs 292 crores)	For the development of sports infrastructure.
AUGUST 2021			
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Jharkhand	USD 112 million (INR 831 Crore)	To finance Urban Water Supply Infrastructure Projects in 4 towns (Ranchi, Hussainabad, Jhumri Telaiya and Medininagar) of Jharkhand.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Government of India	USD 500 million loans	To expand the metro rail network in Bengaluru, Karnataka with the construction of two new metro lines totaling 56 kilometers Outer Ring Road- Kempegowda International Airport corridor with 30 stations.
Asian Development Bank	Maharashtra	\$300 million (~INR 2227 Crore) loan	For the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project that is upgrading rural roads to all-weather conditions and connecting rural areas with markets and services in Maharashtra
World Bank	India		For the Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-2) Phase II, the world's largest dam management program.
Export and Import Bank (EXIM) of India	Government of Guinea	USD 210.73 million (≅INR 1567 crore)	To the for drinking water projects, hospital building and solar projects in the country.
Export and Import bank (EXIM) of India	Government of Mauritius	USD 100 Million (~ INR 742.6 Crore)	To provide Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 100 Million for procurement of Defense items
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	India	\$75 million (~Rs 557 crore)	To Indospace Logistics Parks III, a \$580-million vintage fund for developing logistics and industrial parks across India
JULY 2021			
World Bank	India	USD 500 million (~ Rs 3,726.30 crore)	To support India's informal working class to overcome the COVID-19 distress and to support the states to manage the current pandemic, future climate and disaster shock.
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	Odisha	Rs 388 crore	To set up 4 mega piped drinking water supply projects and 20 rural road projects across 15 districts of the state.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	Goa	Rs 2891.15 lakh	For the Construction of Phase II Building of Goa Dental College and Hospital in Bambolim, Goa.
Export-Import (Exim) Bank of India	Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd (KPTL)	USD 35.26 million	To execute a power transmission project in Senegal
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation) Ltd	USD 250 million (~Rs. 1858 Crore) to	To enhance inexpensive housing finance in India under the themes Affordable & Green housing.
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	Punjab	Rs.446 Crore (i.e. Rs 445.89 Crore)	For five large surface-based drinking water projects in Ferozpur, Fazilka, Hoshiarpur and Rupanagar districts of Punjab.
JUNE 2021			
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	Odisha	Rs 254 crore	For setting up two mega piped drinking water supply projects in Odisha.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Sikkim	\$2.5 million (~Rs 18.28 crore)	To support preparation and design activities to upgrade major district roads in Sikkim.
Japan	India	US\$9.3 million (~INR 69.15 Crore)	From its Emergency Grant Aid scheme to India for the building of cold chain facilities for safe storage of vaccines
India	Sri Lanka	100 million USD Line of Credit (LOC)	Extend a 100 million USD Line of Credit (LOC) to Sri Lanka for projects in the Solar Energy Sector.
World Bank	Andhra Pradesh	Rs 1,860	For supporting the implementation of the 'Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation' (SALT) programme.
Government of India (GoI)	Eswatini (formerly Swaziland)	USD 108.28 million	Extended its 4 th Line of Credit (LOC) worth for construction of their new Parliament building.
Asian Development Bank	Government of India (GoI)	\$484 million (Rs 3,616 cr)	To improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu (TN).
MAY 2021			
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Bajaj Finance Ltd	\$150 million	Loan is for up to five years to enable the company to expand its lending to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) and women owned MSMEs.
APRIL 2021			
Google and Alphabet	India	Rs 135 crore	aid to India to tackle the COVID-19 crisis in India.
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	J.C. Flowers India Opportunities Fund	USD 100 million	It will help the domestic lenders(Lenders in India) to resolve their distressed assets and free up the capital for new lending.
Deutsche Bank AG, a German investment bank	National Cooperative Development	€68.87 million (around Rs 600 crore)	to finance the development work of cooperatives across India.It will lead the Farmers and FPOs to obtain easier credit and market.

	Corporation (NCDC)		
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor(CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.	USD 484-Million (~INR 3616 Crore)	to improve transport connectivity and road maintenance in Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor(CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.
Dutch entrepreneurial development bank (FMO)	India's Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF), managed by EverSource Capital	\$137 million (~Rs 1000 crore)	to invest in India's green energy space such as clean energy, transportation, resource efficiency and energy services.
National Investment & Infrastructure Fund Ltd (NIIFL)	Manipal	₹2,100 crores	NIIFL made its first investment in the Indian healthcare sector by its investment of in Manipal Hospitals through its direct private equity fund, Strategic Opportunities Fund(SOF).
World Bank(WB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)	Punjab	300 Million USD (around Rs.2190 crore)	Approved for the canal-based drinking water project in Punjab.The entire project will be co-financed by International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of World Bank(USD 105 million), AIIB (USD 105 million) and the Government of Punjab(USD 90 million).
World Bank	Mizoram	USD 32 Million (~INR 234.80 Crores)	Loan approved for a Project titled 'Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project' for improving management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram.
Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)	State Bank of India (SBI)	\$1 billion	Loan will be issued for the whole range of business operations of the Japanese automobile manufacturers in India.From the \$1 billion, \$600 million will be financed by JBIC and \$400 million by other participating banks (Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation(SMBC), MUFG Bank, Mizuho Bank, Shizuoka Bank and Bank of Yokahama).
MARCH 2021			
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	Tata Cleantech Capital Ltd (TCCL),India	10 Billion Japanese Yen (~INR 660 Crore)	signed a Loan agreement to help Indian firms focussing on Clean Energy Projects.
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).	India	232.86(~233) Billion Japanese Yen (~ INR 15433 Crores)	for development of several key infrastructure projects in India.
United States Agency for International Development (USAID) & US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)	India	USD 41 Million (~ INR 297 Crore)	for financing investments in renewable energy solutions including rooftop solar installations by Indian Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)	Eswatini (former Swaziland)	10.40 million USD (around Rs.75.99 crore)	Loan covers the Eswatini projects in various sectors like information technology, disaster management and agriculture.

FEBRUARY 2021

Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank)	Maldives	USD 130 million	Indian Exim Bank is set to support the construction of social housing units in Maldives, through its USD 130 million loan to FahiDhiriulhan Corporation Limited.
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)	Government of India (GoI)	\$304 million (mn)	For Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project to strengthen the quality, capacity and security of the power supply in Assam along with reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
Export-Import (Exim) Bank	Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone	15 million USD (around Rs. 109.11 crore)	Export-Import (Exim) Bank, government of India, extended a Line of Credit(LOC). With this LOC the Exim bank has signed a total of 5 LOC's worth 168 million USD to the Republic of Sierra Leone for the expansion of the rehabilitation of existing potable water facilities projects in 4 communities of Sierra Leone.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Medanta ,Multi-Specialty medical institute	Rs 100 crore(USD 13.7 million)	to provide essential health care services and medical equipment to India.
Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)	Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) of Maldives	\$400 million	6.7 km Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) will be the largest civilian infrastructure project in Maldives, connecting Male with three neighbouring islands of Villingili, Gulhifahu and Thilafushi.
New Development Bank (NDB) (formerly known as BRICS Development Bank)	NIIF Fund of Funds (FoF)	USD 100 Million (~ INR 727 Crore)	This is the NDB's 1st Equity Investment into India & the 1st ever Investment in an FoF. With this investment, FoF has secured USD 800 Million in commitments.
Punjab National Bank (PNB)	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)	INR 2 Crore Loan	for providing up to INR 2 Crore Loan to IndianOil dealers through the PNB e-Dealer scheme (PNB electronic dealer finance scheme).

JANUARY 2021

New Development Bank	Andhra Pradesh, India	USD 646 million (about Rs 4,736 crore)	Loan amount of USD 323 million (about Rs 2,368 crore) for 2 projects Andhra Pradesh Roads and Bridges Reconstruction Project and Andhra Pradesh Mandal Connectivity and Rural Connectivity Improvement Project will be provided by NDB.
World Bank	West Bengal, India	USD 105 Million Project (INR 767 Crores)	Loan sanctioned for the West Bengal Inland Water Transport, Logistics and Spatial Development Project. The Loan is provided by International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	USD 10 Million	For Project Readiness Financing (PRF) to help finance piloting activities, project for expanding horticulture production & farm household income in Himachal Pradesh.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	USD 231 Million (~ Around INR 1688.5 Crores)	Loan Agreement for the Assam Power Sector Investment Program (APSIP) for the construction of Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power (LKHEP) plant.

APPOINTMENTS IN BANKING/INSURANCE

NATIONAL			
Name	Appointed As	Entity/Place	Points To Be Noted
SEPTEMBER 2021			
Sanjeeb Chaudhuri	Part-time chairman	IDFC(Infrastructure Development Finance Company) FIRST Bank Limited	He would continue to hold the office of the director owing to SEBI (Security and Exchange Board of India) order or any such authority
V. Vaidyanathan	MD & CEO	IDFC FIRST Bank	Reappointed for a period of 3-years, with effect from 19th December 2021 till December 18, 2024.
Harsha Bhupendra Bangari	Managing Director(MD)	Export-Import Bank of India (India EXIM Bank)	She succeeds David Rasquinha, whose tenure as MD of Exim Bank ended in May 2021
Carol Furtado	officer on special duty (OSD)	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB)	She will take charge as the interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the bank, subject to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval.
Ashish Singhal	Managing Director(MD)	SVC Bank	He succeeded Ajit Venugopalan, who retired on August 31.
AUGUST 2021			
Ajay Kumar, A.K. Choudhary and Deepak Kumar	Executive directors for the year 2021-2022	Reserve Bank of India(RBI)	At present RBI has 12 executive directors and 30 chief General Managers, under the 4 deputy governors.
Mini Ipe	MD and CEO	Life Insurance Corporation(LIC) of India	She has taken charge as the MD of the LIC of India succeeding Vipin Anand, who has retired in July 2021
Shanti Lal Jain	MD and CEO	Indian Bank	He will replace Padmaja Chundururu whose term as MD & CEO of Indian bank will end on 31st August 2021.
SS Mallikarjuna Rao	MD and CEO of	PNB	Extended until 31st January 2022, the date of his superannuation
Atul Kumar Goel	MD and CEO of	UCO Bank	Extended for a period of 2 years.
A S Rajeev	MD and CEO of	Bank of Maharashtra	Extended for a period of 2 years.
Olympic gold medalist, Athlete (Javelin) Neeraj Chopra		RBI	For its new public awareness campaign against digital banking frauds.
Aamir Khan and Kiara Advani	Ambassadors	AU Small Finance Bank	
Sandeep Bakhshi	MD and CEO	ICICI Bank	He was reappointed with effect from 15th October 2021 to 3rd October 2023. He was appointed as the MD & CEO of ICICI Bank in 2018 .
JULY 2021			
Shyam Srinivasan	MD and CEO	Federal Bank	Reappointed for 3 years i.e. from September 23, 2021, to September 22, 2024.

Noopur Chaturvedi	CEO	Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)	She succeeds the outgoing CEO AR Ramesh.
JUNE 2021			
Vishwavir Ahuja	MD and CEO	RBLbank	Ahuja was reappointed for a period of one year with effect from June 30, 2021.
Hitendra Dave	Interim (CEO) of HSBC India.	Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd. (HSBC)	Hitendra Dave succeeds Surendra Rosha
Mahesh Kumar Jain(MK Jain)	Deputy Governor	RBI	Extended for a period of two years with effect from 22.06.2021, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
Chandra Shekhar Ghosh	MD and CEO	Bandhan bank	Re-appointed for a period of three years, with effect from July 10, 2021.
M R Kumar	Chairman	Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)	Government has given a nine-month extension till March,2022 in view of the ongoing preparation for the initial public offer(IPO).
Girish Chandra Chaturvedi(GC Chaturvedi)	Chairman	ICICI Bank	Re-appointment for a period of three years starting July 1, 2021.
MAY 2021			
T Rabi Sankar	4 th Deputy Governor	Reserve Bank of India	He succeeds B P Kanungo, who retired on 2nd April 2021 after serving one year extension period.
Mahesh Balasubramanian	MD	Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited (KLI)	He was appointed following the retirement of G Murlidhar.
APRIL 2021			
Amitabh Chaudhry	MD and CEO	Axis Bank	Axis Bank approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as the Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Axis Bank for a period of 3 years.
Ajay Seth	non-official director	Central Board of Reserve Bank of India(RBI)	He is Economic Affairs Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.He succeeds Tarun Bajaj, who was appointed as revenue secretary.
Atanu Chakraborty	part-time Chairman	HDFC bank	He has been appointed for a period of 3 years with effect from May 5 ,2021 or the date of his taking charge ,whichever is later.He was a retired secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs Ministry in April 2020.
S Ramann	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)	Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).	S Ramann was the Chief Executive officer(CEO) of National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL).
Murali Natrajan	MD and CEO	DCB Bank	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of Murali Natrajan as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DCB Bank for one year from April 29, 2021.
Kalpana Sampat	Managing Director(MD) and Chief	Pramerica Life Insurance Limited (PLIL)	She succeeds Annap Pabby as the new MD & CEO.

	Executive Officer(CEO)		
Mukhmeet S Bhatia	Director General(DG)	Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)	ESIC is working under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.
MARCH 2021			
Satishwar Balakrishnan	MD and CEO	Aegon Life Insurance Limited	Aegon Life Insurance Limited, transforming to become India's first digital-only life insurance company
FEBRUARY 2021			
Matam Venkata Rao	MD & CEO	Central Bank of India	He replaces PallavMahaparta, the MD & CEO of Central Bank of India who retires on 28th February 2021.
Rama Mohan Rao Amara	MD & CEO	SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd	He succeeds Ashwini Kumar Tewari, who was appointed as one of the 4 Managing Directors(MDs) of State Bank of India (SBI).
JANUARY 2021			
JK Shivan	Managing director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer(CEO)	Dhanlaxmi Bank	The bank has its headquarters at Thrissur, Kerala.
Swaminathan Janakiraman and Ashwini Kumar Tewari	Managing Directors(MDs)	State Bank of India (SBI)	Swaminathan Janakiraman was serving as the deputy MD(finance) of SBI. Ashwini Kumar Tewari was serving as MD and Chief Executive Officer(CEO)of SBI Card, a subsidiary of SBI.
Vishwavir Ahuja	MD & CEO	RBL Bank	The bank has recommended this re-appointment to the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) for approval.

RESIGNATION:

Name	Resigned as	Entity/Place	Reason
APRIL 2021			
B P Kanungo	Deputy Governor	Reserve Bank of India(RBI)	retired after serving as Deputy governor for 4 years.
MARCH 2021 & FEBRUARY 2021			
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FIRST IN INDIA & WORLD

FIRST IN INDIA

Men

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Women

- **Baljeet Kaur of Himachal Pradesh and Gunbala Sharma of Rajasthan** have become The First Indian Women Mountaineers to Summit Mount Pumori in Nepal.
- **Priyanka Mohite from Maharashtra** becomes the first Indian woman to scale Mt Annapurna(8,091 metres), the 10th highest mountain peak in the world.
- **Captain Tania Shergill**, a first woman army officer parade adjutant for Republic Day&also lead all men contingent on Army Day.

Statewise/Organisation/Project/Others

SEPTEMBER 2021

- **Goa** gov launched 'Save Water to Get Free Water' scheme under which state households will not be charged for water consumption up to 16,000 litres.
- **Haryana** become the **first state** in the country to **install off-grid solar pumps** under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Uttan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM). So far,
- Tamil Nadu announced the plan to establish **India's first-ever Dugong** (also known as Sea cows) **Conservation Reserve** in the marine region of Palk Bay, in the southern coastal region of Tamil Nadu.
- India's 1st **Indigenously Designed High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant** was inaugurated in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), R&D centre at Hyderabad, **Telangana**.
- Union Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia**, Ministry of Civil Aviation launched '**Medicines from the Sky** (MFTS)' in Vikarabad district of **Telangana** to send medicines to primary healthcare centres using drones.

AUGUST 2021

- India's first **smog tower** launched in **Delhi** as a pilot project by the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at Baba Khark Marg, Connaught Place. It was developed by IIT-Delhi and IIT- Bombay.
- **Chhattisgarh** CM Bhupesh Baghel recognized Community Forest Resource Rights in an urban area, making it the first state in India to do so.
- **Karnataka** government become the 1st state in India to issue an order on the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) – 2020 from the current academic year 2021-2022.
 - **Karnataka** become the first state in the country to provide 1% horizontal reservation for the transgender in each category of general, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) for all government services.
- Titagarh Wagons Ltd displayed its first train for Pune Metro (**Maharashtra**) which was manufactured by its subsidiary in Italy (Europe), Titagarh Firema SpA Plant. It will be India's **first lightest metro trainset** as it is being manufactured with Aluminium for the first time in our country.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has declared **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**, as the 1st 'water plus' city of India.
- **Odisha** is all set to launch India's first '**Smart Health Cards scheme**' covering its 3.5 crore people of 96 lakh families under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana. This Cards is to provide hassle-free quality treatment at the best available health care facilities.
- **Uttarakhand** launched India's 1st Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) Mobile App 'Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert' for alerting its people about the onset of earthquakes. The app has been developed by IIT-Roorkee (IITR).
- **IIT** (Indian Institute of Technology) **Madras** developed India's 1st indigenous motorised wheelchair vehicle, **NeoBolt**, which could be used even on uneven terrains (land). The maximum speed of NeoBolt is about 25 kmph and it travels up to 25 km per charge.
- **ReNew Power** become the first Indian renewable energy company to get listed on the **NASDAQ**, an American stock exchange based in New York, USA.
- Ohmium India Private Limited sets up **Green Hydrogen Electrolyser** manufacturing Gigafactory in Bengaluru, Karnataka. This is **India's 1st** Green Hydrogen (H₂) Electrolyser unit.

JULY 2021

- Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) in partnership with Intel India launched the 1st of its kind research initiative called '**Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (FIRE)**' to advance deep tech-based research in India.
- **India's 1st Grain ATM** called '**Automated, Multi Commodity**, Grain Dispensing Machine' has been installed in Farrukhnagar, Gurugram district, Haryana.
- **India's 1st Cryptogamic Garden** which has nearly 50 species of Lichens, Ferns and Fungi was inaugurated at Deoban area of Dehradun district, Uttarakhand.
- **India's first indigenous Autonomous Drone Defence Dome (AD3)** namely 'Indrajaal' developed by Grene Robotics, a Hyderabad (Telangana) based company into building autonomous technologies.

- **A first fintech cohort of AIM-iLEAP** (Innovative leadership for entrepreneurial agility and profitability) was concluded and organized by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog in collaboration with Startup Réseau and Visa through a series of thematic virtual demo.
- **India's first FASTag/UPI based cashless parking facility** was launched by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) at the Kashmere Gate Metro Station, the only triple-interchange station of DMRC.
- **Google India became the 1st technology company** to publish a transparency report under the new 'Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules.
- **India's 1st Private LNG Facility plant** was inaugurated by Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari at Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- **India's 1st Green Hydrogen Mobility project** to set up in Ladakh by NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) along with Union Territory of Ladakh.
- NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) received an approval to set up **India's single largest Solar Park, 4750 MW (megawatt) renewable energy park** at Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat
- **India's 1st Pod taxi service to be launched in Uttar Pradesh (UP)** between the upcoming 'Noida International Airport' (NIA) (Jewar airport) and the proposed 'Film city' in Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- **India's 1st 'Green Hydrogen' plant** at Mathura refinery, Uttar Pradesh (UP) by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).
- **Maharashtra became the 1st state** in India to implement a blockchain-based educational document registry, and around the globe, India (Maharashtra Government) became the 4th country to achieve such registry after Malta, Singapore, and Bahrain.
- **Punjab became the 1st State in India** to launch SOHUM – Automated Auditory Brainstem Response System (AABR) under Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Programme.
- **The High Court (HC) of Gujarat became the first court of India** to formally start live streaming of proceedings on its YouTube channel to ensure transparency and openness in the Indian judiciary.
- **Odisha launched the 'Sujal -Drink-from-Tap' project** in Puri, the coastal city in Odisha to provide 24×7 piped pure drinking water.

JUNE 2021

- **Research Designs & Standards Organization (RDSO)** became the 1st Indian Institution to be recognised as a Standard Developing Organization (SDO), under Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) SDO Recognition Scheme. SDO recognition is a key part of India's "**One Nation One Standard**" mission.
- **Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB)** set up India's 1st international maritime services cluster at GIFT City in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- **Punjab becomes the first state in India** to initiate the usage of Electronic Identity Cards (eIDs) equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology for Government employees.
- **India's 1st Voltage Source Converter (VSC)** based High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electricity transmission system Monopole-I of the ± 320 kV, 2000 MW, Pugalur (Tamil Nadu) – Thrissur (Kerala) commissioned by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL)
- Tata Motors and Tata Power jointly inaugurated India's solar carport at the Tata Motors car plant in Chikhali, Pune, Maharashtra
- **Goa became the First Rabies-Free State** in India as it has not reported a single rabies case in the last three years.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) Prakash Javadekar released the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of **Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)** based survey of forest areas for 10 states. The survey is the 1st of its kind in India which uses LiDAR technology.

MAY 2021

- **India's 1st City-wide Environmental Surveillance Platform named 'Precision Health Platform'** launched by Karnataka in Bengaluru.
- **India's 1st Agriculture Export Facilitation Center (AEFC)** has launched by Mahratta Chamber of Commerce Industries & Agriculture (MCCIA) along with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) in Pune, Maharashtra.
- Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) stated that **India's 1st Radioisotope Production (reactor) and processing facility complex** will be built on Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model.

APRIL 2021

MARCH 2021

- **India's first company to buy cargo from the oil producers of Guyana** said to be HPCL-Mittal Energy Limited (HMEL), a joint venture between state-run Hindustan Petroleum Corp and steel tycoon L.N. Mittal.
- **Bihar is set to become India's 1st State** to have 2 Green Energy Efficient towns namely Rajgir & Bodh Gaya.
- **Bihar Becomes 1st State in India** to implement 'Ethanol Production Promotion Policy 2021'.
- **India's 1st Govt. run Ambulance Veterinary Clinic network** set-up in Andhra Pradesh
- **India's 1st portal for Farmers**- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath launched India's first UPFPO (Uttar Pradesh Farmer Producer Organization) Shakti Portal as part of the Kisan Kalyan Mission in Gorakhpur, UP.
- **India's 1st 'Transgender Community Desk'** launched in Gachibowli Police Station, Hyderabad, Telangana by Cyberabad Police chief VC Sajjanar.
- **India's 1st World Skill Center (WSC) inaugurated in** Odisha by its state Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik at Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar with the cost of Rs 1342.2 crore.
- **India's 1st Grade Separated Urban Expressway 'Dwarka Expressway'** will be expected to complete before 2022 Independence Day of India. It connects Dwarka in Delhi to Gurugram, Haryana.

FEBRUARY 2021

- **India's First Fisheries Hub** will be set up in Goa an investment of INR 400 Crore.
- **India's 1st Undersea Tunnel**, Two undersea tunnels are under construction in Mumbai city, as a part of Mumbai's Coastal Road Project which will come to operation by 2023.
- **"Carbon Watch"**- Union Territory of Chandigarh and the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana became the first state/UT to launch "Carbon Watch", a mobile application to assess the carbon footprint of individual users.
- **Asia's biggest cattle park** inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (CM) Edappadi K Palaniswami, a Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Livestock and Animal Sciences (AIIRLAS) in Thalavai, Salem district.
- **India's first Digital University**, Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (KUDSIT) was launched by Government of Kerala in Thiruvananthapuram by upgrading its two-decade old Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Kerala (IIITM-K).
- **India's first highway** 210 kilometres long Delhi-Dehradun Expressway is all set to become India's first highway with 12 km long elevated corridor for the protection of wildlife as it will pass through pristine forest areas. It will also be Asia's largest wildlife corridor.
- **India's 1st ever Geothermal Field Development Project** is set to be established by Union Territory (UT) Administration of Ladakh, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Leh and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Energy Centre.
- **India's 1st Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM)** will be established by Minister of State for Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Babul Supriyoat Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- **India's first Amputee Clinic, "PGI Amputee Clinic" in Chandigarh** was launched by Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER).
- **First e-cabinet** Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh inaugurated this e-cabinet at Shimla. Himachal Pradesh became the first state to implement e-cabinet and make the end-to-end processing of cabinets paperless.
- **India's first thunderstorm research testbeds** is set to be established by India Meteorological Department (IMD) at Balasore, Odisha.

JANUARY 2021

- **India's Longest Steel Arch Bridge 'Wahrew Bridge'** inaugurated by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma at Tharia Village in Meghalaya.
- **India's 1st Air Taxi Service** inaugurated by Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar from Chandigarh to Hisar airport in Haryana under Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN).

- **India's First Labour Movement Museum** which showcases the history of the World Labour Movement is set to be launched in Kerala's houseboat tourism hub, Alappuzha, Kerala with a budget of INR 9.95 crores.
- **India's first 'Fire Park'** - Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik virtually inaugurated at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- **India's first 'Driverless Metro Car'** - Rajnath Singh, MoD unveiled India's first indigenously designed India's first 'Driverless Metro Car' at BEML manufacturing facility in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- **Migrant Worker Cell**- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Inaugurated India's 1st of its kind Migrant Worker Cell at Surat, Gujarat.
- Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan released India's first and the world's largest Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) Wave-1 Report 2020 for designing national and state level programmes and policies for ageing population in India.
 - ◆ Covered elderly persons aged 60 and above and oldest-old persons aged 75 and above from all States and Union Territories (UTs) of India.
 - ◆ The state of Sikkim has not been covered under this survey.

FIRST IN WORLD

India at First AUGUST 2021

JULY 2021

Union Minister Prakash Kehav Javadekar, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (MoHI&PE) virtually inaugurated Asia's longest and world's 5th largest 11.3 km **NATRAX (National Automotive Test Tracks) High-Speed Track (HST)** in India's Pithampur district of Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

JUNE 2021

MAY 2021

'**Jupitice Justice Technologies**' from Chandigarh has developed World's 1st Private Digital Court (with Blockchain & Artificial Intelligence) to resolve disputes under the Private Justice System through Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADR).

APRIL 2021

MARCH 2021

FEBRUARY 2021

- India has become the first country in the world to identify the need for action for NAFLD (Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease).
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** is developing a first of its kind in the world, futuristic high altitude unmanned pseudo satellite namely Combined Air Teaming System (CATS) with a start-up company.

JANUARY 2021

- **World's 1st Quantum Computing Applications Lab** to be set up by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS).

Foreign Countries at First

JUNE 2021

- **Google** announced its plan of connecting the United States of America (USA) with South American countries by constructing World's longest subsea cable named as "**Firmina**" honouring Brazil's 1st poet 'Maria Firmina dos Reis'.

MAY 2021

- **China issued a total ban** on synthetic cannabinoids, thus becoming the world's first country to ban all synthetic cannabinoid substances.

APRIL 2021

MARCH 2021

- In a World-first trial, a Japan-Australia venture has started to produce Hydrogen from Brown Coal in the state of Victoria, Australia.

FEBRUARY 2021

JANUARY 2021

- Japan's Sumitomo Forestry company and Kyoto University of Japan is all set to launch the world's first wood-based space satellite by 2023 to combat the problem of space junk.

TARGET

2022

- Target – Housing for all by Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Grameen (PMAY-G) scheme by 2022.
- Government set target to achieve 75 lakh SHGs by the year 2022.
- MoTA: The Nine 'Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums to Recognise the Tribal Freedom Fighters will be Completed by 2022.
- India's Renewable Energy capacity in India is 136 GigaWatts (GW) & by 2022, the share is expected to further increase to over 220 GW.
- NHPC to commission 2, 000 MW Hydropower project on Subansiri River by March 2022.

2023

- 1st-of-its-kind Katra-Delhi Express Road Corridor to be completed by 2023.
- Indian Railways- to electrify all broad-gauge routes by December 2023.
- Maldives & Sri Lanka - 1st two countries in South-East Asia to eliminate Rubella and measles ahead of 2023 target: WHO.
- Total Installed Wind and Solar PV capacity will surpass natural gas in 2023 and coal in 2024.

2024

- MoTA: The Nine 'Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums to Recognise the Tribal Freedom Fighters will be Completed by 2022.
- Indian Railways- set a target to run entire railway network with 100% of electricity by 2024.
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)sets a target to reduce road accident deaths by 50% by 2024.
- The government of India has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya JanaushadhiKendras(**PMBJKs**) to 10000 by March 2024.

2025

- Government has brought forward the target year for achieving 20 percent ethanol-blending with petrol by 2 years to April 2023 from 2025
- Government targets 17 MillionTonnes of Mustard Production by 2025-26
- Govt will achieve goal of a tuberculosis free India by 2025.India has set an ambitious goal to achieve "End Tuberculosis" by reducing the incidence of new TB cases by 80% by 2025.
- India comprises only 12% of digitally skilled employees and the Digitally skilled workforce of India has to increase to 9 fold by 2025.
- 5% blending of biodiesel in diesel by 2025 & Talcher coal gasification-based plant will be India's first coal gasification-based fertilizer plant with pet coke blending.
- Government aims to increase the public health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025.
- Govt plans to double Milk processing capacity to 108 million MT by 2025.

- According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) report, Renewables 2020 – Analysis and Forecast to 2025, Renewable will overtake coal to become the largest source of electricity generation worldwide in 2025 (one-third of world's electricity supply).
- The debt platform is expected to raise enough resources to extend debt support of Rs.1,10,000 crore to projects by 2025.

2027

- Indian Railways to launch 1st set of private trains by 2023, all 151 by 2027.

2030

- India aims to Achieve Zero Road Fatalities by 2030.
- India to have 60% Renewable Energy by 2030.
- Indian Railways Set to Meet All its Energy Need of Over 33 Billion Units by 2030.
- 1 trillion trees will be conserved by 2030 by World Economic Forum (WEF) to combat climate change through 1t.org.
- India's Target – 450 GW of Renewable Energy capacity by 2030.
- According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), India is staring at 29 million skill deficit by 2030.
- India needs an Investment of USD 500 Billion to reach its target of 450 Gigawatts (GW) of Renewable Energy (RE) by 2030.
- Ending the TB epidemic by 2030 is among the health targets of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting (HLM) approved a declaration **to end AIDS by 2030**.
- The World Health Organisation (**WHO**) targets to end TB globally by **2030**.

2032

- NTPC Ltd target to **install 60 GW (or 60,000 MW) of renewable energy capacity (wind and solar) by 2032**

2050

- ReNew Power, a Clean Energy firm of India has pledged to achieve net-zero emission by 2050.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

CABINET APPROVALS

SEPTEMBER 2021

➤ Cabinet Approvals on September 8, 2021

On **September 8, 2021**, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved several initiatives. They are

- ❖ Cabinet extended the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to the textiles sector to cover and promote textiles for **MMF** (man-made fibre) apparel, MMF fabrics and ten segments of technical textiles with an outlay of Rs 10,683 crore over a span for 5 years
- ❖ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Rabi crops for Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2022-23.
- ❖ **MSPs for all Rabi crops for marketing season 2022-23 (In Rs./quintal)**

Crops	MSP for RMS 2021-22	MSP for RMS 2022-23	Cost* of production 2022-23	Increase in MSP (Absolute)	Return over cost (in per cent)
Wheat	1975	2015	1008	40	100
Barley	1600	1635	1019	35	60
Gram	5100	5230	3004	130	74
Lentil (Masur)	5100	5500	3079	400	79
Rapeseed & Mustard	4650	5050	2523	400	100
Safflower	5327	5441	3627	114	50

- ❖ Cabinet approved the procurement of 56 C-295MW transport aircraft from **Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain** for the Indian Air Force (IAF) which will replace its ageing Avro aircraft with it.

Cabinet Approval with Other Countries:

- ❖ Cabinet has approved the signing of an agreement between **India and Portugal** on the recruitment of Indian citizens to work in Portugal.
- ❖ Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (**ICAI**) & The Chamber of Auditors of the Republic of Azerbaijan (**CAAR**).
- ❖ Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU on cooperation in the field of Geosciences between the Joint Stock Company **Rosgeologia** and the **Geological Survey of India** (GSI), Ministry of Mines, Government of India.....[Click here for more detail..](#)

AUGUST 2021

➤ **Cabinet Approvals on August 25, 2021**

On August 25, 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved several initiatives.

They are

- ❖ Cabinet approved the highest ever fair and remunerative price (FRP) of Rs 290 per quintal (qtl) at a **recovery rate of 10%** for sugarcane farmers for sugar season 2021-22 (October – September).
- ❖ CCEA approved Rs 15,000-crore foreign direct investment (FDI) proposal of **Anchorage Infrastructure Investment Holding Ltd** for the investment in the infrastructure and the construction-development sectors.
- ❖ Cabinet also approved the MoU between **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India** (ICAI) and **Institute of Professional Accountants of Russia** (IPAR). [Click here for more detail..](#)

➤ **Cabinet Approvals on August 18, 2021**

On August 18, 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved several initiatives.

They are

- ❖ Cabinet approved the **ratification of the Kigali Amendment** for phase-down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by India under the Montreal Protocol to prevent greenhouse gas emission.
- ❖ Cabinet approved the launch of the 'National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm' (**NMEO-OP**) as a new **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** with a financial outlay of **Rs 11,040 crore** .
- ❖ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a revival package of **Rs 77.45 crore** for the revival of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (**NERAMAC**) Limited.
- ❖ Cabinet approved the signing of a **MoU** between Permanent Mission of India (**PMI**) to the **WTO** (World Trade Organization), Centre for Trade and Investment Law (**CTIL**) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, and Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (**CTEI**) within The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.
- ❖ Cabinet approved the MoU between the Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**), India and the **GARDP** (Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership) Foundation on Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Innovation, Switzerland.
- ❖ Cabinet notified the MoU signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**) and Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (**FIND**), **Switzerland** in February 2021 to strengthen the scientific and technological collaboration. [Click here for more detail..](#)

➤ **Cabinet Approvals on August 4, 2021**

On August 4, 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved several initiatives.

They are

- ❖ Cabinet approved the continuation of **1023 FTSCs** including 389 exclusive POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Courts as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for 2 years from **April 2021 to March 2023**. A Financial outlay of Rs 1572.86 crore has been allocated.
- ❖ Cabinet approved the extension of the revised **Samagra Shiksha Scheme** for **5 years** i.e., from FY22 to FY26 (2021-22 to 2025-26). A total of Rs 2,94,283.04 crore has been allocated for the scheme.
- ❖ Cabinet approved **MoU** between the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (**IIST**) and The Delft University of Technology (**TU Delft**), the Netherlands for academic programmes and research in Science and Technology.[Click here for more detail..](#)

JULY 2021

- Union cabinet given approval for the formation of a Central University in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh with a project cost of Rs 750 crore.

➤ Cabinet Approvals on July 28, 2021

On July 28, 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved several initiatives. They are

- ❖ Cabinet approved a multilateral MoU signed between the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), and International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS).
- ❖ Government approved the Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2021 which amends the Limited Liability Partnership Act (LLP), 2008.
- ❖ Cabinet approved the Creation of 2 New Posts – One judicial member and one administrative for Jammu and Srinagar benches of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)
[Click here for more detail..](#)

➤ Cabinet Approvals on July 22, 2021

On July 22, 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved several initiatives. They are

- ❖ Cabinet approved the establishment of the 1st 'Integrated Multi-purpose infrastructure Development Corporation' for the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.
- ❖ To increase the production and minimise the imports of 'value-added steel/Speciality Steel', the cabinet has approved the PLI Scheme.
- ❖ Cabinet has approved a proposal to allow 100 percent FDI under automatic route in oil and gas public sector unit (PSU).
[Click here for more detail..](#)

➤ Cabinet Approvals on July 15, 2021

On July 15, 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved several initiatives. They are

- ❖ Cabinet approved the 11th Extension of term of the Commission constituted under Article 340 by 6 months beyond 31st July 2021 and up to 31st January 2022.
- ❖ The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) extended for 5 years from April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2026 at a total cost of INR 9000 crore (Central's Share – INR 5357 crore).
- ❖ Cabinet approved the increase of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to Pensions to 28%, which is an increase of 11% compared to existing rate of 17% of the Basic Pay/Pension.
- ❖ Cabinet approved an INR 1624 crore subsidy scheme for a period of 5 years to Indian shipping companies in global tenders floated by Ministries & Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) for import of Government Cargo.
- ❖ Cabinet approved the continuation of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026 with a financial implication of INR 4607.30 crore
- ❖ The nomenclature & mandate of North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine (NEIFM) has been changed as North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Folk Medicine Research (NEIAFMR).
- ❖ Cabinet approved the continuation of the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) on exports of Apparel/Garment and Made-ups with the same rates as notified by the Ministry of Textiles. It has been extended till 31st March 2024.
- ❖ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the implementation of the Livestock sector package worth INR 54,618 crore.

Cabinet Approvals on Foreign Countries:

- ❖ Cabinet has approved the MoU signed between the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, India & Ministry of Health of Denmark on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.
- ❖ Cabinet has approved the MoU between the Ministry of Steel, India & Ministry of Energy, Russia on cooperation regarding coking coal, which is used for Steel making.
[Click here for more detail..](#)

➤ **Cabinet Approvals on July 8, 2021**

On July 8, 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved several initiatives. They are

- ❖ The newly approved scheme 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response & Health System Preparedness Package: Phase-II (ECRP-II)' will be implemented at a total cost of INR 23,123 crore from July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.
- ❖ The MoC signed between the Competition Commission of India (CCI) & Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) was approved by the Cabinet.
- ❖ The MoU between Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICoAI) and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), UK was approved by the union cabinet.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet had approved the modifications in the Central Sector Scheme of Financing Facility of the 1 Lakh crore worth 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)'.

[Click here for more detail..](#)

➤ **Cabinet Approvals on June 30, 2021**

On June 30, 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved several initiatives.

They are

- ❖ The last date for registration of beneficiaries for availing the benefit under Atma Nirbhar Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) has been extended from 30th June, 2021 to 31st March, 2022.
- ❖ Approved the Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID-19 Affected Sectors (LGSCAS), which enables funding of up to INR 50,000 crore for providing financial guarantee cover for brownfield expansion and greenfield projects related to health/medical infrastructure.
- ❖ Approved the Reforms-based and Results-Linked 'Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme', which aims to improve the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of DISCOM (Distribution Company (India)) in the Power sector (not applicable to private DISCOMS). The scheme will be available till 2025-26 and is worth INR 3.03 Lakh crore (Central Fund – 97,000 crore).
- ❖ Approved to a MoU signed between Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India and the Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC), Nepal.
- ❖ Approved the MoU between Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India and the Department of Medical Research (DMR), Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar.
- ❖ Approved the signing of an MoU between the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India and the Public Service Commission, Office of the President of the Gambia on Refurbishing Personnel Administration and Governance Reforms.

[Click here for more detail..](#)

JUNE 2021

➤ **Cabinet Approvals on June 2, 2021**

On May 12, 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved several initiatives.

They are

- ❖ Approves the Model Tenancy Act. It will provide the much-required boost to Rental Housing in India.
- ❖ Union Cabinet had Signed & Ratified Agreement on "Cooperation in the field of Mass Media" between all the Member States of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- ❖ Approved Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Government of Japan in the field of Sustainable Urban Development inline with the existing MoU of 2007 on Urban Development.
- ❖ Approves the MoU signed between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India and Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Government of Maldives on cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development.
- ❖ Approves the MoU to be signed between the Ministry of Mines, Government of India and the Secretariat of Mining Policy of the Ministry of Productive Development of the Argentine Republic in the field of Mineral Resource Cooperation....[Click here for full detail...](#)

➤ **Cabinet Approvals on June 9, 2021**

On June 9, 2021, the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi granted approval to several new initiatives. They are

- ❖ Cabinet approved the allotment of 5 MHz (Megahertz) Spectrum in 700 MHz frequency band to Indian Railways (IR) under the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' mission.
- ❖ Cabinet approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for extension of applicability of New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012 for the Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL).
- ❖ Cabinet approved the increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Kharif crops for marketing season 2021-22....[Click here for more detail...](#)
- Union Cabinet approved a plan for the restructuring of the 246-year-old Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) which has 41 factories, into 7 fully government owned corporate entities on the lines of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSU).
- **Cabinet Approvals on June 16, 2021**
 - ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approvals to the proposals of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) & Department of Fertilizers. They are,
 - 1.Proposal of the MoES for Deep Ocean Mission.
 - Proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy Rates (NBS) for P&K Fertilizers for the year 2021-22.
 - ❖ CCEA chaired by PM Modi has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy Rates (NBS) for P&K Fertilizers for the year 2021-22.
- **Cabinet Approvals on June 23, 2021**
 - ❖ The cabinet approved the allocation of additional foodgrains under PM-GKAY 2021 (Phase-IV) for another 5 months i.e July to November, 2021.
 - ❖ Cabinet given approval to merge and transfer all assets, liabilities, rights and obligations of 'Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited (CRWC)' with its holding enterprise 'Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)'.
 - ❖ Cabinet has approved the agreement signed between India and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes...[Click here for more detail..](#)

MAY 2021

- **Cabinet Approvals on May 25, 2021**

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi granted approval to several key initiatives.

 - ❖ Two Institutes namely Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICoAI) & Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) had signed MoUs with various Foreign Countries/Organisations.
 - ❖ Creation of the post of Director in Senior Administrative Grade (SAG), at National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Academy in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
 - ❖ Opening of a New Consulate General of India in Addu City, Maldives in 2021. It is India's 1st Consulate in Maldives...[Click here for full detail...](#)
- **Cabinet Approvals on May 12, 2021**

On May 12, 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved several initiatives. They are

 - ❖ Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme – 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage' with a Total Outlay of INR 18, 100 Crore.
 - ❖ Transfer of Land of ITBP (Indo Tibetan Border Police) at Mussoorie to Government of Uttarakhand for Aerial Passenger Ropeway System.
 - ❖ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) & Qatar Financial Centre Authority(QFCA)...[Click here for full detail..](#)
- **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** gave approval for strategic disinvestment and transfer of management control in Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI).
- **Cabinet Approvals on May 05, 2021**

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave approval for several initiatives. They are

 - ❖ Approval for Additional foodgrain under Phase-III of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY).
 - ❖ Approval to MoU between India & United Kingdom (UK) on Global Innovation Partnership (GIP).
 - ❖ Approval to MoU between India & UK on Migration and Mobility Partnership (MMP)...[Click her for full detail...](#)

APRIL 2021

- Union Cabinet approved the Scheme 'Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)' with a total outlay of INR 10, 900 Crores. The objectives of the Scheme are – Creation of global food manufacturing champions & supporting Indian brands of food products in the International markets.
- Union Cabinet approved the signing and ratification of an Agreement between India & the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (commonly known as the UK or Britain) on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters.

➤ **Cabinet Approvals of MoUs with Foreign Countries on April 20, 2021**

Union Cabinet has granted approval to several key initiatives. They are

- ❖ Approved the MoU between the Competition Commission of India (CCI) & the Administrative Council for Economic Defense of Brazil (CADE).
- ❖ Approval of Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between ICAI & CPA, Australia.
- ❖ Approval for MoU between ICAI & Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ)
- ❖ MoU between the Director-General of Trade Remedies, India and the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission in March 2021. [Click here for full article..](#)

➤ **Cabinet approvals on April 20, 2021**

Union Cabinet approval to several key initiatives. They are

- ❖ Approval to Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase 2A & Phase 2B.
- ❖ Approved ex-post facto approval for Government amendments to the Finance Bill, 2021.
- ❖ Approval for Exclusive subsidy policy for Urea produced through coal gasification by Talcher Fertilizers Limited (TFL)...[Click here for full article..](#)

➤ **Cabinet approvals on April 7, 2021**

On April 7, 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved several key initiatives. They are

- ❖ Approval of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy's proposal for the implementation of INR 4, 500 Crore PLI Scheme 'National Programme on High-Efficiency Solar PV (Photovoltaic) Modules'.
- ❖ Approval for PLI Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners & LED Lights) with a budgetary outlay of INR 6, 238 Crore.
- ❖ MoU between India & Japan for Academic Research Cooperation & Exchange...[Click here for full article..](#)

MARCH 2021

➤ **Cabinet Approvals on March 23, 2021**

On March 23, 2021, the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi approved several important proposals.

- ❖ Cabinet was appraised on the progress under the National Health Mission (NHM) during FY 2019-20.
- ❖ Approval of signing of MoU between UPSC, India & Independent Administrative Reforms & Civil Services Commission (IARCSC), Afghanistan.
- ❖ Union Cabinet approved an MoC signed between the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India & Water and Disaster Management bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan in the field of Water resources...[Click here for more detail..](#)

➤ **Cabinet Approvals on March 16, 2021**

On March 16, 2021, the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi gave approval to several important proposals. They are

- ❖ Approval for the closure of Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Limited (HHEC).
- ❖ Approval for Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of 'Comprehensive Scheme for Strengthening of Transmission & Distribution in Arunachal Pradesh & Sikkim'.
- ❖ Clearance for Development Finance Institution (DFI) with Capital Infusion of INR 20, 000 Crore.

- ❖ MoU between India & Maldives on Cooperation in Sports and Youth Affairs..[Click here for more detail](#)..

➤ **Cabinet Approvals on March 10, 2021**

On March 10, 2021, The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for

- ❖ Creation of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi as a single non-lapsable reserve fund for health from Health & Education Cess.
- ❖ Amendment for Insurance Act, 1938 to increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the sector to 74% from 49%...[Click here for complete detail](#)

➤ **Cabinet Approvals on March 3, 2021**

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi approved the following Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs).

- ❖ MoU between India & France in the field of Renewable Energy cooperation
- ❖ MoU between India & Fiji for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors..[Click here for complete detail](#)

FEBRUARY 2021

• **Cabinet Approvals on Feb 24, 2021**

- ❖ Cabinet approves Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) with an outlay of Rs 15,000 crore for the pharmaceuticals and with Rs 7,350 crore for IT (Information Technology) hardware.
- ❖ Union Cabinet also approved the proposal of the Home Ministry to dissolve the Puducherry Assembly and impose President's rule in the Union Territory following the resignation of the Chief Minister, Velu Narayanasamy...[Click here for complete detail](#)

• **Cabinet approval on Feb 17, 2021**

- ❖ Approved the proposal of Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) to make amendments in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 or JJ Act by introducing measures for the strengthening of Child Protection.
- ❖ Approved Comprehensive Economic cooperation and Partnership Agreement between India and Mauritius
- ❖ Approved enhanced delegation of Financial Powers under Capital Procurement to levels below Vice-Chief of Armed Forces for items of Capital nature such as overhauls, refits, upgrades etc.[Click here to know more detail](#).....

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave in-principal approval for 100% strategic divestment of Indian Government's shareholding in Rashtriya Space Nigam Limited (RINL).
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved Grant-in-aid of Rs.100 crore to Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Namrup (Assam) for the strengthening of its urea manufacturing units.

JANUARY 2021

Cabinet approvals on January 20, 2021

- Cabinet approves the Investment Proposal of Rs. 5281.94 crore for 850 MW Rattle Hydro Power Project on river Chenab, in Kishtwar district of Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- Union Cabinet approved the signing of MoU between India and Uzbekistan for cooperation in the Solar Energy sector.
- In June 2020, India and Denmark had signed MoU on Indo-Denmark Energy Cooperation in the power sector.
- In January 2020, the Cabinet had approved the MoU between India and France on technical bilateral cooperation in new and renewable energy.
- In April 2019, India and Denmark signed a Cooperation Agreement in the field of Renewable Energy with a focus on Offshore Wind Energy....[Click here for more detail](#)....

- **Setting up of Mega Mineral Reforms** received Union Cabinet approval by amending the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 or MMDR Act, 1957 to generate huge employment opportunities, reduce imports and increase production.
- **Minimum Support Price (MSP) of copra for 2021 season** has been approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACAP).

BILL /Acts/Policy/Rules

SEPTEMBER 2021

AUGUST 2021

- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment Bill), 2021** presented by Minister of State for Corporate Affairs, Rao Inderjit Singh was passed in the Parliament. It will replace the Insolvency Amendment Ordinance 2021 promulgated by the President Ram Nath Kovind on April 4, 2021.
- Union Cabinet approved the **Constitution (127th) Amendment Bill**, which will restore the power of States and Union Territories (UTs) to make their own Other Backward Class (OBC) lists.
- Government amended the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016 with **Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021**. It will prohibiting the identified single use plastic items with low utility and high littering potential w.e.f. July 1, 2022
- President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to the '**The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021**' which amends the Income Tax Act, 1961 (IT Act) and the Finance Act, 2012.
- President Ram Nath Kovind approved the **Constitution (127th Amendment) Bill, 2021**, which will **restore the power of states** and Union Territories (UTs) to identify and specify Socially and Educationally backward Classes (SEBCs).
- **General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment 2021** got assent of the President Ramnath Kovind. This bill will amend the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act of 1972.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation (**MoCA**) has notified **the Drone Rules, 2021** replacing the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) rules, 2021.
 - ◆ Total number of forms to be filled has been reduced from 25 to **5**.
 - ◆ For instance, the fee for a remote pilot license fee has been reduced from INR 3000 (for large drones) to **INR 100** for all categories of drones; and is valid for **10 years**.
 - ◆ Interactive airspace map with green, yellow and red zones shall be displayed on the digital sky platform
 - Green Zone – No permission is required for operating drones
 - Yellow Zone – Permission required
 - Red Zone – Flying not permitted
 - ◆ Yellow zone reduced from 45 km to **12 km** from the airport perimeter. The coverage of these rules has been increased to cover drones up to 500 kg in weight from 300 kg earlier, thereby bringing drone taxis.

JULY 2021

- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** amended the IBBI (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016 to enhance the discipline, transparency, and accountability in corporate insolvency proceedings.

JUNE 2021

- The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (**I&B Ministry**) notified the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021 (**CTN 'Amendment' Rules 2021**).
- Union Cabinet approved the **Inland Vessels Bill, 2021** to streamline vessels/ships which run on the 4,000 Kilometres of operational Inland Waterways in India. It will replace the Inland Vessels Act, 1917.

MAY 2021

APRIL 2021

- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the 'Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) (Amendment) Act, 2021' which amends the 'Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991'.
- GoI has promulgated an Ordinance titled 'The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021' to allow 'pre-packaged insolvency resolution process (PIRP)' to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME). It amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated 'The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021'. The ordinance dissolves existing appellate authorities under 9 acts and transfers their functions (hearing appeals) to High Courts.

MARCH 2021

- President Ram Nath Kovind gave his Assent to 3 Major Bills passed by the Indian Parliament. They are
 - National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill, 2021
 - The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021. It amends the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.
 - The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2021. It amends the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (which regulates the mining sector in India).

FEBRUARY 2021

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has amended the 'Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014' to make changes in the definition of One Person Companies (OPCs) Rules. The new changes will be called as 'Companies (Incorporation) Second Amendment Rules, 2021'.
- Government of India (GoI) has brought Ropeways and Alternate Mobility Solutions (such as Ropeway, Cable Car, Funicular Railway & Electric Public transport) under the ambit of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) by amending the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.

JANUARY 2021

- New Foreign Trade Policy 2021-26' of India will come into effect from April 1, 2021. The main mission of the policy would be to make India a leader in International Trade in the next 5 years.
- GOI promulgated a Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 by amending the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 to merge the J&K cadre of All India Services Officers with the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre.

LONGEST, LARGEST, HIGHEST

SEPTEMBER 2021

AUGUST 2021

- NTPC Ltd launched India's **largest Floating Solar PV** (Photovoltaic) **project** with the capacity of 25MW on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal power station in Visakhapatnam, **Andhra Pradesh**.

JULY 2021, JUNE 2021 & MAY 2021

APRIL 2021

MARCH 2021

- **India's Largest Floating Solar Power Plant of 100-MegaWatt (MW)** capacity being constructed at Ramagundam in Telangana is set to be commissioned by May-June, 2021.

FEBRUARY 2021

- **Chenab Bridge, World's Highest Rail Bridge** is expected to be completed by the end of 2021. It is being constructed over the River Chenab which is 35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.

JANUARY 2021

- Karnataka's Hubballi Railway station officially Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji railway station is set to get the "world's longest railway platform".
- **World's Largest Floating 600 Megawatt (MW) Solar Energy Project** which is under construction at Omkareshwar dam on Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh is set to begin power generation by the year 2022-23.

BUDGET AND ECONOMIC SURVEY

91st Union Budget 2021-2022: India's First Digital Budget Complete Overview

We urge you to read each and every point of the 3rd budget of Narendra Modi led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government's second term.

India's First Digital Budget:- India's first paperless budget which replaced the traditional 'Bahi-Khata' with Made-in-India tablet amid COVID-19 wrapped in a red-coloured cover with national emblem emblazoned on it.

- GDP growth: Nominal GDP is expected to grow at of 14.4% (i.e., real growth plus inflation) in 2021-22.
- GDP growth estimate: In Budget 2020-21 GDP was estimated to grow at 10%, which was revised at -13%.

The budget is divided into two parts viz. Part-A & Part-B.

- Part-A : Consisted of six pillars with emphasis on AtmaNirbhar Bharat.
- Part-B : Related to the Tax Proposals...[Click here to read entire budget...](#)

Economic Survey 2020-21: Complete Overview

January 31, 2020, Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance has presented the Economic Survey 2020-21 in the parliament. It was authored by Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Venkata Subramanian, Ministry of finance.

India's economy to contract by 7.7% (-7.7%) in FY2020-2021. Meanwhile, it is also forecasted that India's real GDP 11% and nominal GDP at 15.4% will grow highest since independence in FY21-22...[Click here to read more about the Economic Survey 2020-21](#)

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

SEPTEMBER 2021

Launches: -

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Scheme Extension/Cost or Ratio allotment and others: -

- Government of India has enhanced the scope of the Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for specified agriculture products schemes. The rates of assistance have been increased by **50% for exports** by sea and **100% through the air**.

AUGUST 2021

Launches: -

- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0 (PMUY 2.0)** Scheme launched by PM Narendra Modi from Mahoba district of Uttar Pradesh. An **additional 10 million LPG connections** will be provided .

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy launched a **loan interest subvention scheme** in collaboration with UNIDO and GEF to provide financial assistance for innovative waste to energy biomethanation projects and business models
- Ministry of Mines (MoM) adopted the **scheme for accreditation of private exploration agencies** developed by the National Accreditation Board for Education and Training of the Quality Council of India (QCI-NABET).

Scheme Extension/Cost or Ratio allotment and others: -

- Government set the Loan Disbursement Target under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (**PMMY**) at **INR 3 trillion** for the current Financial Year (FY) 2021-22.
- The collateral free loans to self-help groups (SHGs) provided under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NRLM**) enhanced to **Rs 20 lakh** from Rs 10 lakh by RBI.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (**National Mission of Financial Inclusion**) completed its 7th Anniversary on 15th August, 2021

JULY 2021

Launches: -

Scheme Extension/Cost or Ratio allotment and others: -

- The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food processing Enterprises (**PMFME**) scheme, which was launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan completed one year of its launch on 29th June, 2021.

JUNE 2021

Launches: -

- **Author Mentorship programme ‘YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors) – Prime Minister’s Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors’** launched to Train Young and Budding Authors (Below 30 Years of age).It is a part of the **New India@75** Project (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav).
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a new scheme under ‘Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund)’** for children who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian/adoptive parents due to Covid 19. Child will get a fund of **Rs 10 lakh** when the premium amount till the age of 18 years will be paid by PM CARES.

Scheme Extension/Cost or Ratio allotment and others: -

- Ministry of heavy industries and public enterprises (MoHI&PE) made partial modifications over the **‘Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India Phase II’ (FAME India Phase II) scheme**. The scheme is likely to be extended for 2 years till March 2024 from 31 March 2022.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) celebrated 6th Anniversary of Smart Cities Mission, Smart Cities Mission (SCM), AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U).

Category	1st	2nd	3rd
Smart City award	Indore and Surat		
Smart Cities Leadership Award	Ahmedabad	Varanasi	Ranchi
State Award	Uttar Pradesh (UP)	Madhya Pradesh (MP)	Tamil Nadu(TN)
UT Award	Chandigarh		
Project Awards			
Social Aspects	Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh (AP)	Bhubaneshwar, Odisha	Tumakuru, Karnataka
Built Environment	Indore, Madhya Pradesh (MP)	Surat, Gujarat	Erode, TN
Sanitation	Tirupati, AP & Indore, MP	–	Surat, Gujarat
Culture	Indore, MP & Chandigarh	–	Gwalior,MP

Economy	Indore, MP	Tirupati, AP & Agra, Uttar Pradesh (UP)	-
Governance	Vadodara, Gujarat	Thane, Maharashtra	Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Urban Environment	Bhopal, MP & Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)	-	Tirupati, AP
Urban Mobility	Aurangabad, Maharashtra	Surat, Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Gujarat
Water	Dehradun, Uttarakhand & Varanasi, UP	-	Surat, Gujarat
Sustainable Business Model	Agartala, Tripura		
Other Awards			
Innovative idea award	Indore, MP		
Covid Innovation Award	Kalyan-Dombivali in Maharashtra and Varanasi, UP		

MAY 2021

Launches: -

- **'Sakhi-One Stop Centres (OSC)'** is a scheme which set up by Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) to support women affected by violence in public and private space.

Scheme Extension/Cost or Ratio allotment and others: -

- Central Government has amended the **Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI), 1976 & named it as Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance (Amendment) Scheme, 2021** with the maximum sum, assured payable under the EDLI Scheme was increased from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 7 lakh.
- Prime Minister has released the 8th installment of funds to beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. Around ~INR 20, 667 Crore was distributed in the 8 installment.
- **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)** has allocated INR 2250 Crore for the FY 2021-22 for 'Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture' (MIDH).
- Government of India has extended the deadline for making payments under the Direct Tax Vivaad Se Vishwas dispute resolution scheme to another 2 months till 30th June 2021.
- **'Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)'** has issued guidelines from Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- Real Estate Fund – **'Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) Investment Fund I'** will benefit 1.16 lakh home loan borrowers and completed its 1st Residential Project.

APRIL 2021

Launches: -

- **'Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)'**, a central sector scheme has been launched with a total outlay of INR 10, 900 Crores.
- **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)** – launched by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal to provide Financial Assistance to startups for Proof of Concept, Prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization.

Scheme Extension/Cost or Ratio allotment and others: -

- Ministry of Finance has extended the validity of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) till June 30, 2021 and an amount of INR 3 Lakh crore (Target Credit Line) is sanctioned under the Scheme.
- As per Ministry of Finance, Banks have sanctioned more than INR 25, 586 Crore loans to over 1.14 Lakh Accounts (Till March 23, 2021) under the Stand-Up India Scheme since its launch in 2016.

- **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G) scheme** - Ministry of Rural Development has stated that 92% of targets have been completed in the 1st Phase of the PMAY-G i.e from 2016-17 to 2018-19.
- Ministry of Finance has extended the Scope of ECLGS 2.0 component of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by including SMA-1 (Special Mention Accounts-1) of the Healthcare sector .
- Central Government has extended the COVID-19 Warriors Insurance scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) for Health workers fighting COVID-19 for a period of one year.

MARCH 2021

Launches: -

- **ESI (Employees State Insurance) Scheme** launched by Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labor & Employment Santosh Gangwar with Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY (Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana) in 4 States – Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra.

Scheme Extension/Cost or Ratio allotment and others: -

- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has decided to extend the Khelo India scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26. INR 8750 Crore has been estimated as financial implication of the new Khelo India Scheme in the EFC Memorandum.
- Central Govt. has spent Rs. 11.82 crores for Implementing the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) since its roll out in 15th August 2020 under pilot basis in 6 Union Territories

FEBRUARY 2021

Launches: -

- **'Formation and Promotion of 10, 000 new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)'**, a New Central Sector Scheme was launched by Government of India with the budget of INR 6865 Crores.
- **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)** received approval from Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry for setting up of this scheme with a Corpus of INR 945 crores for the period 2021-25.
- **Jute Seeds Distribution Plan and Jute Farmers Awareness Workshop on Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise for Jute (ICARE-Jute)** inaugurated virtually by Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani, Ministry of Textiles and Women & Child Development at Barrackpore, West Bengal (WB).

Scheme Extension/Cost or Ratio allotment and others:-

- 24th February, 2021 is the **2nd Anniversary of the starting of Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN)'**. Under the Scheme, an amount of INR 6000 rupees per year will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of farmers.
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for FY22** - Central Government has allocated Rs 16000 crores for for FY22, an increase of around Rs 305 crore as compared to FY21.
- **National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGPA)** is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme initiated in 2010-11 as a pilot project in 7 India states extended to remaining States and 2 UTs in 2014-15 for a period of 5 years. Now, this 5-year period was extended up to March 31, 2021.

JANUARY 2021

Launches:

- **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme** will be implemented from January 1, 2021.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is set to operationalise India's 1st Government Sponsored **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT), Collective Investment Scheme** by March, 2021.

Scheme Extension/Cost or Ratio allotment and others:-

- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**, a Govt. Crop Insurance Scheme has completed 5 years of its operation. The Scheme is in line with One Nation – One Scheme theme.
- **Modified Scheme to Produce 1G Ethanol**- Department of Food & Public Distribution (DoFPD) has notified a modified scheme to extend financial assistance for producers of "1st Generation" (1G) Ethanol from feed stocks such as Cereals (rice, wheat, barley, corn & sorghum), Sugarcane & Sugar Beet.

STATE GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

SEPTEMBER 2021

AUGUST 2021

Punjab Government has chosen SBI General Insurance to expand the health insurance coverage in the state of Punjab under Ayushman Bharat Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana (AB-SSBY).

JULY 2021

Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, launched a mobile app 'Jan Sahayak-Aapka Sahayak' from Chandigarh to ensure 'anywhere-anytime-anybody' delivery of Government to Citizen (G2C) and Business to Citizen (B2C) services under single digital platform.

JUNE 2021

MAY 2021

Madhya Pradesh Mukhyamantri COVID Upchar Yojana (Chief Minister's COVID Treatment Programme) to provide free treatment for COVID-19 to all Economically Weaker Families of the state.

Telangana Medical and Health department has signed with the National Health Authority (NHA) for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana(PMJAY)) scheme.

APRIL 2021

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the YSR Zero Interest Crop Loan Scheme for farmers.

MARCH 2021

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced 4 welfare schemes for the state to satisfying the needs of the people under Below Poverty line (BPL).[Click here to know the name of schemes under state news](#)

Maharashtra launched the "MahaSamruddhiMahilaSashaktikaran scheme" to empower the women in rural areas.Maharashtra State Rural Development department will be the nodal body.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched 'GharokiPaachan, Chelik Naam' scheme (Daughter's name is a home's identity) programme.

FEBRUARY 2021

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched 2 schemes namely - 'Pragyan Bharati' & 'Bhasha Gourab' in the State to encourage the young generation to Strive for Knowledge through Education.

Maharashtra Intellectual Property Rights Scheme and Quality Testing & Certification Scheme Chief Minister of Maharashtra launched to provide financial support to the innovative startups to file for IT patents.

JANUARY 2021

Jharkhand - Jharkhand launched the state's own crop relief for farmers scheme 'Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana' which will replace Government scheme Pradhan Mantri FasalBima Yojana (PMFBY).

Madhya Pradesh -The state rolls out 'Launch Pad Scheme' to make Youth Self-Reliant under which new opportunities of employment will be provided for Boys/Girls.

Punjab -

- ◆ Chief Minister (CM) of Punjab Amarinder Singh virtually launched a set of welfare projects as "Dheeyan Di Lohri" from Chandigarh.
- ◆ Punjab Cabinet approved the 'One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for Recovery of Outstanding Dues - 2021' for Traders to clear their Pending Arrears.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee virtually launched 'Maa' Scheme to provide the meals for the poor & destitute at a cost of INR 5.

LAUNCHES/INAUGURATIONS

SEPTEMBER 2021

- PM Narendra Modi v released a special issue of a **Rs 125 commemorative coin** on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of **Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada**, the Founder Acarya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness(ISKCON).
- Government of India granted **Special Livestock Sector Package** with an outlay of **Rs. 9800 crore** for next 5 years leveraging total investment of Rs. 54,618 crore.
- Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State(**MoS**), Ministry of Jal Shakti launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen(**SSG**) 2021 under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) (**SBM(G)**) Phase- II to achieve the goal of comprehensive cleanliness by addressing Open Defecation Free (**ODF**) Sustainability and SLWM issues.He also released the SSG 2021 Protocol document; SSG 2021 Dashboard and the mobile App for Citizens feedback.
- Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy R. K. Singh & Danish Minister for Climate, Energy, and Utilities Dan Jorgensen jointly launched '**Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind**' as part of the Green Strategic Partnership.
- Union Minister for Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari launched '**iRaste**(Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering) a two year pilot project in **Nagpur**, Maharashtra to enhance road safety and reduce road accidents in Nagpur.
- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (**AIM**) with **ISRO** and Central Board of Secondary Education (**CBSE**) launched the **Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) 'Space Challenge 2021'** with the theme "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav"for all school students across the country.

AUGUST 2021

- PM Narendra Modi launched a prepaid electronic voucher-based digital payment solution **e-RUPI** to strengthen the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and the financial inclusion of unbanked citizens.
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Science & Technology released '**Biotech-PRIDE** (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) **Guidelines**' developed by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology.
- PM Narendra Modi launched the National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm (**NMEO-OP**) to make India self-sufficient in edible oil production.
- Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare virtually inaugurated the **Aarogya Dhara- 2.0** to increase the reach of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (**AB-PMJAY**) programme
- Secretary of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Durga Shankar Mishra has launched a logo and brand named "**SonChiraiya**" to promote market products of Urban Self Help Groups(SHG).
- Narendra Singh Tomar, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) inaugurated the world's second-largest refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank (NGB) at the **National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources** (NBPGR), Pusa, New Delhi.
- The **2nd phase of SAMVAD** (Support, Advocacy & Mental Health intervention for children in Vulnerable circumstances and Distress) was launched by the Union Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD) Smriti Zubin Irani in Bengaluru,Karnataka on the successful completion of one year of SAMVAD programme.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched **Ubharte Sitaare Fund (USF) of Corpus INR 250 crore** with a green shoe option of INR 250 crore for Export oriented Small & mid sized companies across the country.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the asset monetisation pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities named '**National Monetisation pipeline**' (NMP). The total monetisation potential under NMP through core assets of the central govt over the 4-year period (i.e. from FY22 to FY25) is estimated at Rs 6 lakh crores.

- **NITI Aayog** and World Resources Institute(**WRI**), India jointly launched the 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport' in India to bring in the diverse needs to adopt an integrated approach for greening the transport sector in India.
- Government of India launched a rescue mission named '**Operation Devi Shakti**' to evacuate stranded Indians from the Taliban-Captured **Afghanistan**.
- Government launched the Startup Accelerator of Meity for Product Innovation, Development & Growth (**SAMRIDH**) programme to support 300 Information Technology (IT) enabled Startups for a period of 6 months.
- United States(**US**) Trade and Development Agency(**USTDA**) and the US India Strategic Partnership Forum (**USISPF**) launched the US-India Climate Technologies Action Group(**CTAG**) to integrate private and public sector inputs on a concrete initiative that can contribute to advanced global action on climate.
- Bureau of Police Research and Development (**BPR&D**) and All India Council for Technical Education (**AICTE**) launched the **MANTHAN-2021**, a first of its kind Hackathon focused on National Security.
- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi dedicated the renovated complex of **Jallianwala Bagh Smarak** at Amritsar in Punjab to the nation. PM also inaugurated the **Museum Galleries at the Smarak**.

JULY 2021

- **Union Minister for Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** launched 'National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)' Mission & its Guidelines.
- Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry, Director General Border Roads (DGBR) conducted the last blast of the escape tube of the under-construction 'Sela Tunnel of 1555 meters in length' in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated & dedicated several Railway Projects worth INR 1,100 crore in Gujarat.
 - Inauguration of India's 1st Re-developed railway station – Gandhinagar Capital Railway Station.
 - Gauge converted cum electrified Mahesana – Varethha line & the newly electrified 266 Km Surendranagar – Pipavav section (~ INR 289 crores).
 - Inauguration of 3-new attractions at Gujarat Science City, Ahmedabad.
 - PM Flagged off 2 new trains i.e Gandhinagar Capital – Varanasi Superfast Express and MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) service trains between Gandhinagar Capital and Varethha.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) launched multiple societally beneficial initiatives on occasion of its 15th Foundation Day on 28th July
 - MoES-ESSDP is an integrated digital web portal of MoES institutes. The portal will provide data on various themes of earth system science for public use.
 - MoES website aims to provide a user-friendly interface and cyber secure experience to the public.
 - Dr. M Rajeevan, Secretary of MoES and others released the book 'Hydrocarbon fluid inclusions in petroliferous basins'.
 - The 'Pune Weather Live' app provides real-time and location-specific weather updates for Pune.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched several new initiatives to mark the 1st Anniversary of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) on 29th July, 2021.
 - National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) & National Education Technology (NETF) – To provide a digital and technological framework to India.
 - Vidya Pravesh – A three-month play-based school preparation module for Grade 1 students. Under the program, children and parents of remote areas will have access to playschools.
 - Launch of Indian sign language as a subject at secondary level.
 - NISHTHA 2.0 (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) – An Integrated Programme for teacher training designed by NCERT.
 - SAFAL (Structured Assessment For Analyzing Learning Levels) – A competency based assessment framework for Grades 3, 5 and 8 in CBSE schools
 - A New website dedicated to Artificial Intelligence (AI).

- The Academic Bank of Credit system was also launched. It will act as a Digital Bank that holds the credit earned by a student in any course.
- Launch of 1st Year Engineering Programmes in regional languages & Guidelines for Internationalization of Higher Education.

JUNE 2021

- **Union Minister for Tribal Affairs launched the Tribal Livelihoods Initiative ‘Sankalp Se Siddhi-Mission Van Dhan’.** Also launched 7 new Tribes India Outlets, Tribes India Coffee table book, Van Dhan website, software application, and new TRIFED Head Office in New Delhi.
- Government of India launched the **“Project O2 for India”** to increase the ability of India to meet the increasing demand of medical oxygen and hospital beds following the 2nd wave of COVID-19.
- **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E) Minister, Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually launched Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine (SAGE) initiative & portal** to help old aged people. These benefits to the elderly people will be given by the Startups.
- **PM Narendra Modi virtually launched ‘Customized Crash Course programme for COVID-19 Frontline Workers’.** The training programme will be conducted in 111 training centres spread over 26 states.
- Quality Council of India (QCI), launched the ‘Indian Certification of Medical Devices 13485 PLUS scheme (ICMED 13485 PLUS)’ for undertaking verification of the quality, safety and effectiveness of medical devices in India.

MAY 2021

- **Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC)** of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, has launched ‘Mission Bharat O2’ challenge to develop indigenous solutions for solving India’s oxygen crisis.
- **Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur virtually launched** the 1st phase of the ‘Ministry of Corporate Affairs 21 Version 3.0 (MCA21 V3.0)’ portal.
- **Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Program** on rehabilitation of Divyangjan , first of its kind was launched by Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Dr Thaawarchand Gehlot.
- India will launch **‘UNITE AWARE’**, a mobile tech platform for the United Nations Peacekeepers to improve their safety and security in the line of duty.
- **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development launched SAMVEDNA -Toll-Free Helpline(1800-121-2830) for Children.

APRIL 2021

- PM Narendra Modi virtually launched the distribution of e-property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme (Survey of Villages And Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas).
- During a trilateral Ministerial Meeting, the Trade Ministers of India, Japan & Australia virtually launched the ‘Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)’.
- Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan launched a new mission called ‘Aahaar Kranti’- importance of nutritionally balanced diet & accessibility to all local fruits & vegetables.
- Central Electricity Authority (CEA) & CEEW’s CEF (Council on Energy, Environment and Water – Centre for Energy Finance) have launched the ‘India Renewables Dashboard’.
- Italy launched the first ever Mega Food Park project, including food processing facilities in India.
- Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing & Urban Affairs virtually launched 2 Challenges EatSmart Cities Challenge & Transport 4 All Challenge (T4All) during an online event. `
- Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ launched ‘NanoSniffer’ – World’s 1st Microsensor (or MEMS, Micro-Electro Mechanical Systems) based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD).
- Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched a National Education Policy (NEP) Implementation Plan for School Education called ‘Students’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ)’.
- Narendra Singh Tomar, MoA&FW launched the Honey Corners, a special space for sale of honey of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) in New Delhi.

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) launched an initiative called AIM-PRIME (Program for Researchers on Innovations, Market-Readiness & Entrepreneurship) to support science-based deep-tech startups & ventures across India.
- Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan virtually launched the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), an integrated Digital Platform for Disease Surveillance in India.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare along with Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs virtually launched 'Anamaya', the Tribal Health Collaborative.

MARCH 2021

- **'Tribal TB Initiative'** was launched by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan towards the goal of 'TB Mukht Bharat' by 2025.
- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman virtually launched Tech-enabled initiatives of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) – Central Scrutiny Centre (CSC) and Mobile app of IEPFA (Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority).
- PM Narendra Modi launched below two key events during World Water day(March 21)
 - Launch of 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign to undertake water conservation at grass-root level.
 - MoA the Union Minister of Jal Shakti & the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for implementation of the Ken Betwa Link Project (KBLP).
- **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (India@75)** ,the curtain raiser activities were inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and flagged off the 'Padyatra' (Freedom March) from Sabarmati Ashramat the event organised in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- **India Energy Office (IEO)** ,a first its kind was inaugurated by Tarun Kapoor, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas at Russia's landmark Federation Tower in Moscow,Russia.
- **CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) Floriculture Mission** launched by Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, Ministry of Science & Technology virtually from New Delhi.
- **90-day Scientific Cruise Mission** is set to launch by CSIR-NIO (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-National Institute of Oceanography) to conduct genome & proteome mapping (nutrients) in the Indian ocean.
- **India's and Asia's first National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC)** will come up on the bank of the Ganges in the premises of Patna University in Bihar.
- **India & Norway agreed to collaborate in the area of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)** for the next 5 years. Lakshadweep & Puducherry have been identified as Pilot sites for the Project.

FEBRUARY 2021

- **World's Largest Cricket Stadium** called Sardar Patel Stadium, Motera, Ahmedabad, Gujarat was inaugurated by President of India, Ram Nath Kovind which was renamed as Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium.
- **2nd Edition of Khelo India National Winter Games 2021** was virtually inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). The event will take place from February 26-March 2, 2021.
- **"National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM)"** was virtually launched by Hardeep Singh Puri, MoHUA and Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, MeitY to create a digital infrastructure for Indian cities.
- **Operational guidelines for Integration of NAFLD (Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease)** with NPCDCS (National Programme for Prevention & Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke) was launched by Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW).
- **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0** was virtually launched by Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) along with IMI 3.0 portal & released the Operational Guidelines for IMI 3.0.
- **Key projects related to Oil & Gas Sector** virtually Inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in Tamil Nadu.

- **Pugalur – Thrissur Power Transmission Project, Kasaragod Solar Power Project and Water Treatment Plant** at Aruvikkara in Kerala were inaugurated virtually by Prime Minister.
- **Common Research and Technology Development Hub (CRTDH) at CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow**, Uttar Pradesh was inaugurated by Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan during institute's 70th Annual Day Celebrations.
- **1st India Toy Fair-2021** - Union Education Minister, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani and Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal jointly launched the website(<https://theindiatoyfair.in/>) for 1st India Toy Fair-2021.
- **Construction of Statue & Memorial for Maharaja Suheldev foundation stone** virtually laid by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi at Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- **India-Australia Circular Economy (I-ACE) Hackathon, 2021** was inaugurated virtually on February 11, 2021 by the NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).
- **Tejas Mark II Multirole Combat Jet** - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is planning to launch this Indigenous jet in August-September of 2022. The 1st high-speed trial of the jet productions is expected to begin in 2025.
- **Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)** launched 2 new initiatives namely SAKSHAM Job Portal (Shramik Shakti Manch) & Sea Weed Mission during its 34th Foundation Day.
- **Srivilliputhur-Meghamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR)**-Government of India (GoI) has approved the Srivilliputhur-Meghamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR) in Tamil Nadu (TN), it will be TN's 5th Tiger Reserve and the Largest ever Tiger Reserve in the state.
- **8th India International Silk Fair**, India's Biggest Silk Fair was inaugurated by Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani virtually.
- **2nd Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21** of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was inaugurated by the Union Home Secretary, Ajay Kumar Bhalla in New Delhi.
 - The mobile application "Locate Nearest Police Station" was launched during the event.

JANUARY 2021

- **Kochi-Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline** - Prime Minister virtually inaugurated this pipeline and was constructed by GAIL (India) Ltd at a cost of INR 3, 000 crores.
- **Toycathon 2021** and Toycathon Portal ([https://toycathon.mic.gov.in.](https://toycathon.mic.gov.in/)) were jointly launched by Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani and Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Ministry of Education (MoE) in New Delhi to make India self-reliant in the toy sector.
- Prime Minister inaugurated the
 - ◆ 306-Km long New Rewari in Haryana-New Madar in Rajasthan section of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) .
 - ◆ Flagged off the World's 1st Double Stack Long Haul 1.5 Km Container Train hauled by electric traction from Atela in Haryana – Kishangarh in Rajasthan.
- **'Sagar Anveshika'** - Coastal Research Vehicle (CRV) launched by Union Minister for Earth Sciences, Harsh Vardhan at Chennai Port.
- **Light House Projects (LHPs)** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laid the foundation of six Light House Projects in Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).
- **New institute of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** -Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Science & Technology inaugurated CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR), in New Delhi.
- **Doppler Weather Radar**- Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated Doppler Weather Radars at Mukteshwar (Uttarakhand) and Kufri (Himachal Pradesh). Doppler Weather Radars in Uttarakhand is 1st of its kind.

- **1st ever Khelo India Zaskar Winter Sports & Youth Festival 2021** inaugurated by Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Youth Affairs and Sports at Padum in Zaskar of Kargil, Ladakh UT.
- **India Africa Trade Council 2021** was inaugurated in Hotel Crowne Plaza, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) for building up business relations between India and Africa.
- Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sport, launched the indigenously developed Reference Material(RM), synthesized by collaborative efforts of National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) and National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Guwahati.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) released National Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Monitoring Survey (NNMS) 2017-18, 1st of its kind complete survey on NCDs using standardised tools & methods.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE/ANNOUNCEMENT

SEPTEMBER

Fund Allocations: -

Others

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified new rules regarding the taxation on the 'interest income' which is earned through the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) contributions, beyond **Rs 2.5 lakh a year** and **Rs 5 lakh** a year from FY22 onwards (i.e. from April 2021).

AUGUST

Fund Allocations: -

The government of India provides USD 1 million aid to Zimbabwe under United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

Others

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Address on India's 75th Independence Day Celebrations

PM Modi laid the vision for the country for the next 25 years, he stated "**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas**".

- ❖ Gati Shakti will act as the 'National Infrastructure Master Plan' and will help in setting a holistic and integrated approach in infrastructure construction. **INR 100 Lakh Crore** will be allotted for the Gati Shakti programme.
- ❖ 75 Vande Bharat trains to be rolled out in **75 weeks of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence** to connect every corner of India.
- ❖ To fight malnutrition, the government has set a target to provide fortified rice to the poor through the Public Distribution System, Mid-Day meals Scheme and Others by 2024.
- ❖ PM Modi announced, **For the 1st time Ever**, Girls will be allowed to enroll in the Sainik Schools across the country.
- ❖ PM Modi announced the **launch of the National Hydrogen Mission** to make India the global production hub for clean hydrogen fuel production and exports. An amount of **INR 1500 Crore** was set aside to achieve India's target of 175 GW by 2022 & also for NHEM.
- ❖ PM Modi announced that the Government will launch an **E-commerce platform for Self Help Groups (SHGs)** to promote their products.
 - MHA Nityanand Rai announced that the **16th Indian Census** will be **India's 1st-ever Digital Census**. Data for the Census 2021 will be collected through mobile Apps and will be uploaded on the portal directly.
 - GOI announced the Amrit Mahotsav App Innovation Challenge 2021 for Indian entrepreneurs and start-ups. The challenge will be available on – innovateindia.mygov.in and 30th September would be last date for submission
 - Government announced the rates and guidelines for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (**RoDTEP**), an export incentive scheme. The tax refund rates for different sectors under RoDTEP were fixed in the range of 0.5 percent to 4.3 percent.

- Union Education & Skill Development Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan & Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Virendra Kumar Jointly launched various initiatives under the **New Education Policy (NEP)-2020**.
 - The booklet on the 1-year NEP-2020 Achievement document.
 - Virtual School of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)
 - Release of 'Priya-The Accessibility Warrior'- Accessibility booklet developed by the NCERT & the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
 - National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) Bharat (Foundational Literacy & Numeracy) FLN tools & resources on DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing)
 - Alternate Academic Calendar of the National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT)

JULY 2021

Fund Allocations: -

Others

- Indian Government's Flagship Programme 'Digital India' completed 6 years on July 1, 2021.
- Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) and Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced the Central Government's revision of MSMEs guidelines and the inclusion of Retail and Wholesale trades as MSMEs.
- Government created a separate 'Ministry of Co-operation (Sahkarita Mantralaya)' to provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the **Co-operative Movement in India**. The New Ministry has been carved out from the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
 - Amit Shah will head this new 'Ministry Of Cooperation' along with Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Govt approved the '**Government of India (Allocation of Business) Three Hundred and Sixty First Amendment Rules, 2021**' which brings the 'Department of Public Enterprises (Lok Udyam Vibhag)' which was part of the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises under the Ministry of Finance.
 - The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) will be the 6th Department in the Finance Ministry.
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry indicated that the India Industrial Land Bank (**IILB**) will achieve pan-India integration by December 2021.
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs incorporated the 'National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)' also known as Bad Banks/Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) with an authorised capital of INR 100 crore and paid-up capital of INR 74.6 crore.
- Union Minister for Power, R K Singh inaugurated '**Aiming for Sustainable Habitat: New Initiatives in Building Energy Efficiency 2021**'
The initiatives which were launched are
 - Specifying code compliance approaches and minimum energy performance requirements for building services, and verification framework with Eco Niwas Samhita 2021.
 - Web-based platform 'The Handbook of Replicable Designs for Energy Efficient Residential Buildings'
 - Online Directory of Building
 - Announcement of NEERMAN Awards (National Energy Efficiency Roadmap for Movement towards Affordable & Natural Habitat) .
 - Online Star Rating Tool for Energy Efficient Homes created to improve energy-efficiency
 - Training of over 15,000 Architects, Engineers and Government officials on Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) 2017 and Eco Niwas Samhita (ENS) 2021.
- **Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD)** of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying setup Dairy Investment Accelerator under its Investment Facilitation Cell.
- Central Government decided to set up a world class Indian Institute of Heritage at Noida, **Gautam Buddha Nagar** (Uttar Pradesh) .
- **Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan proposed to set up a National Research Foundation (NRF)** with an outlay of INR 50,000 crores over a period of 5 years.
- **Government allowed 100% FDI** under the automatic route for oil refiners in case an 'in-principle' approval for strategic disinvestment of a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) has been granted by it.

- **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) announced 27% Reservation for OBCs (Other Backward Classes) & 10% Reservation for EWS (Economically Weaker Section) in the All-India Quota Scheme (AIQ).**

JUNE 2021

Fund Allocations: -

- Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman announced an '**Economic Relief from Pandemic' stimulus package worth INR 6,28,993 crore** to support the Indian Economy during the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. They are
 1. Under the Loan Guarantee scheme, additional credit of INR 1.10 lakh crore will flow to the businesses. It includes INR 50,000 crore for the health sector and INR 60,000 crore for other sectors, including tourism.
 2. Government has increased the Target Credit Line under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by INR 1.5 Lakh crore.
 3. The Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) is a new scheme which aims to benefit the smallest of borrowers who are served by the network of Micro Finance Institutions. The amount allocated for the scheme is INR 100 crore.
 4. Government has extended the date of registration under the ANBRY scheme from 30.6.2021 to 31.03.2022.
 5. The allocation of additional food grains under PM-GKAY 2021 (Phase-IV) has been extended for another 5 months i.e. July to November, 2021. The expenditure of the scheme is expected to be at INR 93,869 crore, with this the total cost of the scheme will reach INR 2,27,841 crore for PMGKY.
 6. Additional subsidy of Rs.14,775 crore will be provided to farmers for Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers.
 7. A new scheme for strengthening public health infrastructure and human resources has been announced with an outlay of INR 23,220 crore.
 8. Government has announced a revival package of INR 77.45 crore for North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC).
 9. Government is set to infuse equity in Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) over 5 years to increase export insurance cover by INR 88,000 crore.
 10. Government has decided to provide an additional corpus to National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) INR 33,000 crore of project exports.
 11. The Government has set aside INR 19,041 crore for implementation of BharatNet
 12. Government has announced an allocation of INR 3.03 lakh crore for a Revamped Reform-Based Result-Linked power distribution scheme. Out of this, the Centre's share would be Rs.97,631 crore.

Others

- **Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), launched a number of initiatives** to enhance the SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) scheme.
- **Babul Supriyo, Minister of State for Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) released the latest version of "Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India"** on the virtual event organised on the account of Desertification and Drought Day (17 June).
- Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra along with Election Commissioners Rajiv Kumar and Anup Chandra Pandey released the "**General Elections 2019 India - An Atlas**", which consists of data and statistical figures of 17th General Elections held in 2019.

MAY 2021

Fund Allocations: -

- **Ministry of Finance, Government of India** is set to provide an additional amount of INR 15,000 Crore to State Governments as Interest free 50-year loan for spending on Capital projects for the FY 2021-22.
- **India's Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (Independent Charge) Prahlad Singh Patel & Mongolia's Minister of Culture, Chinbat Nomin** the Cultural Exchange Program (CEP) between the two countries was renewed until 2023.
- **Union Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' approved monetary assistance** to students Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDM). INR 1200 Crore has been allocated to State Governments/UT for this purpose.

Others

- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has released new guidelines for implementation of Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) Scheme Phase-II (Government Producer Scheme).
- As per the **Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC & FW)**'s 3rd **Advance Estimates of production of major agricultural crops for 2020-21**, the total foodgrain production in India is estimated to rise by 2.66% to 305.44 MT in 2020-21 (compared to 2019).
- Ministry of Power is set to establish a National Mission on the use of Biomass in coal-based Thermal Power Plants and help in meeting India's 450 Gigawatts of Renewable Energy by 2030.
- **Cheetah, declared extinct in India in 1952** is set to be re-introduced into India in November, 2021 at the Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh (MP).
- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs released the '**CCI Journal on Competition Law and Policy**' during the 12th Founding Day of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- **Jharkhand has clinched the 1st Position** among the 36 States & UTs of India based on the progress of implementation of Smart City projects, Rajasthan came second in the rankings.
- **Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC) – Infrastructure I** of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has recommended NITI Aayog's project 'Great Nicobar Plan' for "for grant of Terms of Reference (TOR)" for Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies.
- According to the Council on Energy, Environment and Water-Centre for Energy Finance (**CEEW-CEF Market Handbook 2020-21 (Annual Issue)**), India added 12.1 GigaWatt (GW) power generation capacity in 2020-21.
- **Government has set Foodgrains Production target** for the crop year 2021-22 at 307 Million Tonnes (MT), the production target for 2020-21 was 301.92 MT.
- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has released new guidelines for implementation of Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) Scheme Phase-II (Government Producer Scheme).
- **Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways** has stated that the Government has set a target of road construction of worth INR 15 Lakh Crore in the next 2 years.
- **Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan** virtually flagged off the 1st supply of UCO (Used Cooking Oil) based Biodiesel blended Diesel from IndianOil's Tikrikalan Terminal, Delhi.
- **Ministry of Labour & Employment** has notified Section 142 of the Social Security Code, 2020 which covers the applicability of Aadhar. It enable the Labour Ministry to collect Aadhar data of workers in the Unorganized Sector.

APRIL 2021

Fund Allocations: -

- India has extended NPR 42.95 Million (~ INR 2.69 Crores) grant assistance to Nepal for construction of a New Building for a School in Udaypur district of Nepal. Nepal inaugurated 10 Roads (length of 300 Kms) which were built with Indian grant assistance of NPR 800 Crores (~ INR 501 Crores).

Others

- Indian Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi & Russian President Vladimir Putin have agreed to establish a '2+2 Ministerial Dialogue' at the Foreign & Defence Minister level between the two countries.
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has certified around 14, 491 Hectares of land in Car Nicobar and nancowry group of Islands in UT of Andaman&Nicobar as 'Organic Area' under the 'Large Area Certification (LAC)' scheme of the PGS-India (Participatory Guarantee System) programme.
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has announced an Innovation Challenge #FOSS4GOV to accelerate the adoption of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in Government.
- Government has operationalized around 75, 532 Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWCs) across India since 2018. Punjab achieved the 1st rank in operationalising HWCs in India.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) celebrated 'PoshanPakhwada' (Nutrition Fortnight) across India under POSHAN Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission from March 16-31, 2021.

- Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) announced the constitution of a high-level steering committee for eco-health initiatives in India. Union Minister also launched the special issue of ICMR's Indian Journal of Medical Research.
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is aiming to launch POSHAN Abhiyaan for the Elderly.
- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has launched "Sankalp se Siddhi" a 100 days Village & Digital Connect Drive.
- Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare approved the 'National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021' to address the high cost of treatment for rare diseases.
- T.S. Tirumurti, India's Permanent Secretary to the United Nations (UN) stated that India has contributed an additional USD 500, 000 (~ INR 3.7 Crores) to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism.

MARCH 2021

Fund Allocations: -

- **India will fund NPR 246 Million** (~ INR 15.498 Crore) under the Government of India reconstruction grant agreement for restoration of 3 more Cultural heritage sites in Nepal.
- **India funded ~ 1.9 Million Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) (~Indian Rupee (INR) 89 Lakh)** to the Maldives Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services to complete 'Fiyavathi Home for Vulnerable Children' project.

Others

- Third phase of the Indian beamline project was initiated in Japan with special focus on research based on Industrial Applications and Indian researchers will be trained with Advanced X-ray techniques.
- According to data presented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to Lok Sabha, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Maharashtra lead in usage of Drip Irrigation.
- **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** announced to retain 8.5% annual interest rates on provident fund (PF) deposits for the financial year 2020-21.
- **India Toy Fair 2021** -First ever 'The India Toy Fair 2021' was inaugurated virtually by PM Modi on the underlying themes of 'Atmanirbhar (Self Reliant) Bharat' and 'Vocal for Local'.

FEBRUARY 2021

Fund Allocations: -

- India committed to Nepal that it will fund Nepali Rupees (NR) 142 million (US \$50 million) to restore 3 cultural heritage projects in Nepal.

Others: -

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has included 14 additional Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme.
- 45th International Kolkata Book Fair, will be held in July 2021 at the Central Park, Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal. The focal theme country of the Book fair 2021 will be Bangladesh.

JANUARY 2021

Fund Allocations: -

- Rs 128.69 crores spends for MaitreSetu, which connects South Tripura with Ramgarh of Bangladesh and provides access to the Chittagong seaport, is all set to be opened.
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways implements Rs 320-crore Enterprise Business System (EBS) at five major ports of Mumbai, Chennai, Deendayal, Paradip, Kolkata (including Haldia) to provide digital port ecosystem.
- Central Government has announced Rs. 5,801 Cr for new 1035 km National highway (NH) between Surat (Gujarat) and Bengaluru (Karnataka).

Others: -

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) released guidelines to reduce the permissible level of Trans-Fatty Acids (TFA) in oils and fats to 3% for 2021 & 2% by 2022 from the current permissible limit of 5%.

- Permanent Representative of India to United Nations (UN) TS Tirumurti announced that India will head 3 Important Committees of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) – Counter-Terrorism Committee (for 2022), Taliban Sanctions Committee (also called the 1988 Sanctions Committee) & Libya Sanctions Committee.
- Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Environment Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) virtually released ‘Marine MegaFauna Stranding Guidelines’ & ‘National Marine Turtle Action Plan’ in New Delhi.

STATEWISE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021

- **Gujarat** initiated ‘Vatan Prem Yojana’ which encourages non-resident Indians (NRIs) from Gujarat to fund development projects in their native villages.
- **J&K launched** a digital banking mission “One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi” to promote door-to-door digital banking and financial service in remote areas of J&K.
- **Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh Govt.** has declared ‘Snow leopard’ (Panthera uncia) as its state animal and ‘Black-necked crane’ (Grus nigricollis) as its state bird.
- **Madhya Pradesh** -NTPC received a Letter of Award(LoA) from Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan for developing 325 MW Solar Power Project at Shajapur Solar Park, Shajapur district **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Manipur** gov launched an electronic Inner Line permit (ILP) or **e-ILP platform** at Imphal, Jiribam and Mao to monitor the entry, exit and tracking of visitors to the state.

AUGUST 2021

- **Assam** cabinet has decided to not prosecute any Gurkha member under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**.
- **Chhattisgarh** govannounced the creation of **4 New Districts** and **18 New Tehsil** in the state. New districts named as Manendragarh, Mohla Manpur, Shakti and Sarangarh- Bilaigarh.
- **Haryana** Police with 100 per cent marks, secured the 1st position in India under Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) followed by Gujarat Police and Himachal Pradesh.
- **Tamil Nadu** - (**Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**) has provided the first approval under SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF) to the **Tamil Nadu (TN)** state government.

JULY 2021

- **Karnataka** gov,SAP Labs India and UNDP India have collaborated with to enhance access to career guidance, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities and to promote the digital skills to empower the women and youths of Karnataka
- **Kerala** Regional Office of NABARD has launched a project with the financial assistance of Rs 18.50 lakh for evaluation of vaccine against bacterial disease ‘Riemerellosis’ in ducks to Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU), Thrissur, Kerala was sanctioned by NABARD.
 - Also launched Up-skilling of Fishermen Youth in Out Board Motor (OBM) Engine Repair work.
- **Madhya Pradesh**,city **Indore** become the only city from India to be selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme.The project will be rolled out for **5 years** .
- **Manipur** gov launched various welfare schemes that are implemented under the ‘National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development’ (NABARD) in the state.
 - The scheme includes the ‘Comprehensive Scheme for development of Manipur State Cooperative Bank (MSCB) Ltd. and Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies (PACS)’
- **Meghalaya** gov launched a face recognition mobile app ‘[Pensioners’ Life Certificate Verification](#)’ to help the pensioners of Meghalaya to get a life certificate.
- Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary in Bundi has been sanctioned as the 4th Tiger Reserve of **Rajasthan** and 52nd Tiger Reserve of India by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- **Rajasthan** government’s Department of Food and Civil Supplies and United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India established a partnership to improve the Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS).
- **Tamil Nadu (TN)** received INR 28,508 Crore Investment Commitments from 49 Projects during the ‘Investment Conclave 2021’ held in Chennai.

JUNE 2021

- **Assam** has declared Raimona region in Kokrajhar district as Assam's 6th National Park (NP). The **Raimona NP** is a 422 sq. km contiguous forest patch within the Bodoland Territorial Region.
 - Assam government notified the 111.942 sq km Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary (WLS) as its 7th National Park(NP).
- **Goa** - Chief Justice of India S A Bobde appreciated the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) of Goa, Goa is the only Indian State to have a UCC.
- **Odisha** - Odisha and the United Nations World Food Programme (**UN WFP**) made a partnership to improve the household food and nutritional security in Odisha

MAY 2021

- **Maharashtra cabinet** approved the proposal to allocate 50 Acres of land in the district of Sindhudurg to establish the National Institute of Medicinal Plants (**NIMP**).
- **Karnataka Chief Minister (CM) B S Yediyurappa, launched** an online portal named 'Akanksha 'to provide comprehensive details on all the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in the state.

APRIL 2021

- **Goa** - Chief Justice of India S A Bobde appreciated the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) of Goa, Goa is the only Indian State to have a UCC.
- **Haryana** state govt. has approved allotment of 140 acres of land o worth ₹3.22 crore per acre for e-commerce major, Flipkart for setting-up asia's largest fulfillment center in Gurugram, Haryana.
- **Rajasthan** - Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Ltd (RRECL) commissioned India's 1st Farm-based Solar Power Project under the PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Urja Suraksha evamUtthanMahabhiyan) Scheme at kotpuli in Jaipur,Rajasthan.
- **Udhampur district of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)** UT bagged the top position at National level for successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during FY 2020-21.
 - Chhattisgarh bagged the first place among all states/UT for developing the highest road length under PMGSY. It was followed by Uttarakhand and J&K.

MARCH 2021

FEBRUARY 2021

- **Maharashtra** - Uddhav Thackeray, Chief Minister of Maharashtra unveiled the first indogeneous metro racks for the new Metro line of Mumbai – Metro 2A and 7 at the Charkop Metro Depot, Mumbai.
- **Punjab's** First 'Central Water Treatment Plant' set up at Village Daudhar of Moga, Punjab began supply of Clean Drinking Water to 85 Villages of Moga district.
- **Uttar Pradesh's Republic Day parade tableau** was adjudged as the best and received the award from Union Minister Kiren Rijjuamong the 32 tableaux on 26th January 2021. The theme of the UP tableau was "Ayodhya: The cultural heritage of Uttar Pradesh".
- **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** has partnered with the United Kingdom Space Agency's (UKSA) for 'Impact Based Flood Forecasting using Earth Observation (EO) based Information' project for getting India's 1st Impact-based Flood Forecasting.
- **Tamil Nadu** Chief Minister EdappadiKaruppaPalaniswami, unveiled "Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy 2021-2025" and MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) Policy 2021.He signed a total of 28 MoUs with a investment of Rs 28,053 crores across various sectors.

JANUARY 2021

- **Gujarat** - The Industrial Disputes (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2020, which was passed in the state Assembly on September 22, 2020 received the presidential assent.

- **Madhya Pradesh**-5-day Tansen Sangeet Samaroh 2020, 96th edition of the Annual Music Festival organized to pay tribute to the Indian Musical Maestro Tansen was held in Gwalior. Pt Satish Vyas conferred with prestigious Tansen Samman 2020.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

SEPTEMBER 2021

AUGUST 2021

- Supreme Court bench held that the **Governor of a state can pardon prisoners**, including death row convicts, even before they have served a minimum 14 years of prison sentence under **Article 161**.
- Supreme Court (SC) allowed **Women** candidates to appear in the upcoming National Defense Academy (**NDA**) examination.

JULY 2021

- The Supreme Court(SC) directed States and Union Territories (UT) to extend the implementation of the '**One Nation, One Ration Card**' scheme (ONORC) by July 31, 2021.
- Supreme Court (SC) **struck down certain parts of Part IXB** of the Indian Constitution. Part IXB was inserted by the Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011, it deals with incorporation, terms of members of board and its office bearers and effective management of cooperative societies.

JUNE 2021

MAY 2021

- Supreme Court's e-Committee released the manual for its free e-Courts Services Mobile App in 14 regional languages. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court of India and the Chairperson of e-Committee has written the foreword of the manual.

RAILWAY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021

AUGUST 2021

JULY 2021

- National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (**NCRTC**) plans to implement "**Integrated Real-time Enterprise Asset Management System (iDREAMS)**" in Indian Railways to digitally manage all rail assets.

JUNE 2021 & MAY 2021

APRIL 2021

- **Indian Railways Station Development Corporation (IRSDC)** has developed 1st of its kind 'Form-based codes' for commercial development of railway lands.

MARCH 2021

- **Western Railway** inaugurated the newly commissioned Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system (also known as Global System for Mobile Communications – Railway (GSM-R)) at Divisional

Railway Manager's office in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is the 1st time that MTRC has been commissioned in Indian Railways (IR).

FEBRUARY 2021

JANUARY 2021

- Indian Railways has renamed the Howrah-Kalka Mail, one of the oldest running trains in India, as "Netaji Express" with effect on 23rd January 2021, the 125th Birth Anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.
- Union Minister Piyush Vedprakash Goyallaunched the first-of-its-kind Indian Railways dedicated Freight portal "Freight Business Development Portal".
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) & Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation (MAHA-METRO) signed MoU to provide biodigester Mk-II technology for treatment of human waste (night soil) .

CAMPAIGN

SEPTEMBER 2021

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the "**Main Bhi Digital 3.0**" for Digital Onboarding and Training for street vendors under Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme
- Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology(**MeitY**) launched Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (**PMGDISHA**) Drive and announced a **PMGDISHA Campaign** for **100% digital literacy** in digital villages under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations.

AUGUST 2021

JULY 2021

JUNE 2021

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Prakash Javadekar launched an 2-month Awareness **Campaign on Single-Use Plastic (SUP) & India Plastic Challenge - Hackathon 2021**.

MAY 2021 & APRIL 2021

MARCH 2021

- '**Sahi Disha**' **campaign** launched by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to celebrate the livelihoods and entrepreneurship of women in rural India.

FEBRUARY 2021

- "**SwavalambanSashakt- Mega campaign**" has launched by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs of India (COWE) to encourage and to create awareness about the Stand-Up India (SUI) scheme of Central Government.

JANUARY 2021

'**SAKSHAM 2021 (SanrakshanKshamata Mahotsav)**', a month-long pan-India campaign launched by Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) to create awareness about the adverse impact of fossil

fuels and to switch to cleaner fuels. 'Green and Clean Energy' (Hindi- हरितएवंस्वच्छऊर्जा) is tagline of the campaign.

COMMEMORATIVE NAME

SEPTEMBER 2021

- Assam gov has decided to rename the **Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park** as the "**Orang National Park**" to honour the Adivasi and tea tribe communities of Assam.

AUGUST 2021

- Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh renamed Army Sports Institute stadium of Army Sport Institute (ASI), Pune as "**Neeraj Chopra Stadium**", after the Olympic Gold Medalist Neeraj Chopra.
- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu released a Commemorative **Postage Stamp** on the Social worker and Sangh Pracharak, '**Mananiya Chaman Lal**'.

JUNE 2021

MAY 2021

- Government of Punjab has officially renamed the Mohali International Hockey Stadium Sector 63 phase 9, Mohali, Punjab, after the 3-time Olympics champion, Padma Shri Balbir Singh Senior.

APRIL 2021 & MARCH 2021

FEBRUARY 2021

- Sardar Patel Stadium, Motera, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, which was renamed as Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium on February 24, 2021.
- Ministry of Education (MoE) is set to rename residential schools and hostels funded under Samagra Shiksha scheme of MoE as 'Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose residential schools and hostels' .

JANUARY 2021

FESTIVAL

Festival Name	Celebrated In	Points to be noted
SEPTEMBER 2021		
Ladakh Nomadic Festival	Ladakh	The event was organised by Ladakh Cultural Academy in association with the Department of Tourism
Nuakhai	Odisha	The next day of Ganesh Chaturthi i.e., September, 11, 2021. It marks the consumption of the first harvested crops.
Solung	Arunachal Pradesh	It is a harvest festival performed after sowing of seeds and transplantation, to seek for good crops
Bail Pola festival or the Festival of cattle	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	To recognise and acknowledge the importance of oxen and bulls in agriculture and farming activities
AUGUST 2021		
Wanchuwa festival 2021	Assam	Tiwa tribal community living in the hills celebrated in Morten Village in Karbi Anglong District of Assam

JULY 2021		

JUNE 2021		
Raja Parba	Odisha	A 3-day long annual festival welcoming the agricultural year in Odisha namely 'Raja Parba' aka 'Mithuna Sankranti' is being celebrated in the state from June 14, 2021 to June 16, 2021.
Hemis festival	Ladakh	The two days grand Hemis festival was celebrated by the people of Ladakh and the Tibetan community on 20 th and 21 st of June 2021.
MAY & APRIL 2021		

MARCH 2021		
Kalanamak rice festival	Uttar Pradesh	Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a three-day-long 'Kalanamak rice festival' in Siddharth Nagar. The festival was organized after the success of Strawberry and Jaggery festivals. Kalanamak is also called Buddha Rice.
Hearth	Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)	Three-day long Maha Shivaratri festival, locally known as "Hearth" festival. The festival marks the wedding of Lord Shiva with Goddess Parvati.
FEBRUARY 2021		
47th Edition of Khajuraho Dance Festival	Madhya Pradesh	Ms Usha Thakur, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Madhya Pradesh inaugurated the 47th edition of Khajuraho Dance Festival on 20th February 2021. It is organised by the Ustad Alauddin Khan Music and Arts Academy under the Department of Culture, Government of Madhya Pradesh from 20th February to 26th February 2021.
Mandu Festival	Mandu, Madhya Pradesh	three-day Mandu Festival's theme is "Khojnemein Kho Jao (feel lost in discovering)". It was inaugurated by state culture and tourism minister Usha Thakur.
Kanchoth festival	Jammu and Kashmir	a symbol of ancient Nag culture is observed annually across Chenab valley region of Jammu and Kashmir during the 'Shukla Paksha of Magh month' in January or February
JANUARY 2021		
Bird festival 'Kalrav'	Bihar	Bihar's 1st state level bird festival was held from January 15 to 17, 2021 in Nagi bird Sanctuary & Nakti bird Sanctuary, Jamui district, Bihar.
Cherry Blossom Mao Festival	Manipur	inaugurated by Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur Nongthombam Biren Singh from the CM Secretariat in Imphal, amid COVID-19. The festival marked the beginning of pink season in the district.
National Folk Dance Festival	Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory- JKUT)	The day festival was organised by the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala (Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India) jointly with Jammu