

**AUGUST 2021**

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**MONTHLY  
ONE-LINER  
GK DIGEST**

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## CONTENTS

International News.....	1
National News .....	1
Banking .....	5
Index and Ranking.....	9
Reports.....	10
Appointments.....	11
Awards and Honours.....	12
Important Days.....	13
Mous Signed .....	14
Government Schemes .....	16
Defence.....	19
Science and Technology.....	20
Summits and Conferences .....	21

## MONTHLY ONE-LINER GK DIGEST: AUGUST 2021

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### Germany—5th Country to sign ISA Framework Agreement

- The country signed an **agreement with ISA after amendments to it of opening its Membership** to all Member States of the United Nations.
- The signed agreement copies were **submitted by Ambassador of Germany to India, Walter J. Lindner with the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI.**

#### 'UNITE Aware'

- The Indian side has contributed **USD 1.64 million to UNITE Aware platform.**
- The platform will provide **information about terrain to the United Nations military personnel (Blue Helmets) in the line of duty.** It will provide camp security for UN peacekeepers.

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### PM Modi launched initiatives on 1st Anniversary of NEP

- To mark the one successful year of the new National Education Policy (NEP), Prime Minister Narendra Mod launched several initiatives and schemes.
- NEP 2020 is the education policy that had replaced National Policy on Education in 1986. **The new NEP 2020 is based on pillars like Access, Quality, Equity, Affordability and Accountability.**

### 'Biotech-PRIDE Guidelines'

- The guidelines for 'Biotech-PRIDE are developed by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- The guidelines will be implemented by the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) at Regional Centre or Biotechnology which is supported by DBT.

### 112th Annual Day Celebrations of NCDC

- At the event, **Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Whole Genome Sequencing National Reference Laboratory for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and BSL 3 Laboratory.**
- The PG Hostel and Guesthouse was **also inaugurated by the union minister.**

### PhonePe launched UPI based AutoPay Function for MF SIP

- The introduction of **UPI based AutoPay functionality for MF SIP will help PhonePe to offer an excellent end-to-end customer experience.**
- The function of SIP through **UPI AutoPay is available for all existing and new investors on the PhonePe app.**

### 'Delhi@2047'

- The 'Delhi@2047' initiative aims **to make Delhi a Global City by 2047.**
- Under this initiative, **the partnership will be established among private sectors, CSR initiatives and philanthropic organisations.**

### Bangladesh & Canada Joined CDRI

- The **CDRI is India's initiative which was launched by PM Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit held in Sep 2019.**
- India's **External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar welcomed Bangladesh and Canada for joining CDRI.**

### 'National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)'

- The mission was launched **to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils by inducting 'palm oil'.**
- He announced that **Rs 11,000 crore will be invested in the edible oil ecosystem.**

### UNICEF India partnered with Facebook

- The initiative will **improve children's resilience so that they can access the digital world in a safe manner.**

- Both the entities will **create awareness among the children so that they will access the online world in a safe manner.**

### **Arya Startup partnered with SBM Bank India**

- The partnership will provide **customized financial solutions to the Agri traders and Agri entrepreneurs of India.**
- Both the entities will ensure **to ease the finance lending process and offer financial support on time to the beneficiaries dealing in the Agri domain.**

### **'Operation Blue Freedom'**

- The expedition was **flagged off from Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.**
- It consists of a team of people with **disabilities who will reach Siachen Glacier under the expedition.**

### **World's 2nd largest 'National Gene Bank'**

- The **World's second-largest refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank** was inaugurated by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.
- It was inaugurated at the **National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa, New Delhi.**

### **'Small Business Loans Initiative'—Facebook India and Indifi**

- The initiative aims **to provide quick access to business loans to the SMB owners**, thus reducing the credit gap within India's MSME sector.
- The initiative is open **to businesses registered across 200 cities and towns in India.**

### **Multiple projects Inaugurated in Somnath, Gujarat**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the **foundation stone of multiple projects in Somnath, Gujarat.**
- PM Modi inaugurated Somnath Promenade, which is developed under **PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) Scheme.** The total cost of Somnath Promenade is over Rs. 47 crore.

### **'Urja'—Chatbot of BPCL**

- The **'Urja' chatbot is an AI (Artificial Intelligence)** enabled one which is launched to offer a seamless self-service experience to the customers.
- BPCL has launched the **'Urja' chatbot under its Project Anubhav.**

### **National Monetisation Pipeline**

- The NMP is developed by **NITI Aayog in partnership with infrastructure line ministries.** The framing of NMP is done as per the 'Asset Monetisation' framed under Union Budget 2021-22.
- The NMP defines **assets and asset classes for various infrastructure ministries, then further it will be monetized for a period of time.**

### 'NeoBolt'--India's First Indigenous Motorized Wheelchair Vehicle

- The '**NeoBolt**' motorized wheelchair vehicle can be used on roads and even on uneven terrains areas.
- It has a speed of 25 kmph max. It is available **to the people at the price of approx. Rs 55000.**

### Honda Cars India Ltd partnered with Canara Bank

- They have partnered **to provide retail finance schemes to customers of HCIL.**
- Due to this partnership, **the customers of HCIL will be able to opt for easy finance features** while purchasing the car models of Honda like Amaze, City, Jazz and WR-V.

### 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport'

- The forum will be implemented by **NITI Aayog** as it is its **implementing partner for India.**
- The forum aims **to reduce the peak level of GHG emissions in the transport sector on the Asian continent.** It aims to reduce it in line with a well below the 2-degree pathway. The GHG emissions in the transport sector lead to the problems like congestion and air pollution.

### UP's Ganga Expressway to Receive Loan from PNB

- The ambitious **Ganga Expressway project** of Uttar Pradesh has received major support of funds from Punjab National Bank (PNB).
- The PNB has sanctioned a loan of **Rs 5100 crore to the state government for the same.**

### Google Collaborated with Setu

- The FDs through this beta version are of tenors like **7-29 days, 30-45 days, 46-90 days, 91-180 days, 181-364 days, and 365 days.**
- The interest rates linked to these **FDs will vary from 3.5% for the shortest FD to 6.35%** for the FD with one year tenor.

### 'WEP Nxt'--- NITI Aayog and CISCO

- The 'WEP Nxt' is the next phase of the **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).**
- Under the 'WEP Nxt', **Cisco's technology and experience will be used to boost women's entrepreneurship in India.**

### 'MANTHAN 2021' Hackathon

- The platform is a national-level Hackathon and aims **to identify innovative concepts and technology solutions** that will solve security challenges of the 21st century by intelligence agencies.
- The hackathon aims to **empower intelligence agencies.**

### TN announced Welfare Package for Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees

- The CM of Tamil Nadu, **MK Stalin has announced a welfare package for the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees** living in special camps of the state.
- The CM announced the **welfare package worth Rs 317.40 crore.**

### 'Bharat Series (BH-series)' Registration Introduced

- The Bharat Series (BH-series) mark for new vehicles will **enable seamless transfer of personal vehicles across states in the country.**
- The vehicles which are having a **BH series mark will not require the assignment of a new registration mark** when the owner of the vehicle shifts from one state to another.

### 9 New SC judges Took the Oath of Office in One Go

- For the first time, it was observed that **nine judges were sworn as the judges of the Supreme Court (SC) together.**
- Total nine new judges, **including three women, took the oath of office as judges of the Supreme Court by Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana.**

## BANKING

### 'Lumine' Platinum Credit Card & 'Eclat' Select Credit Card

- The cards are launched on the **RuPay platform and during the 1st phase will be available to LIC policyholders, agents, employees and its subsidiaries.**
- Both the cards will have **card limits as per the needs of the cardholders, which will suit their lifestyles.**

### 'SIM Binding'

- The 'SIM Binding' is an **enhanced security feature which will protect customers from various digital frauds** and offer them a safe online banking experience.
- Under this feature, **both the apps will run only on those devices which have SIM of mobile numbers registered with the Bank.**

### IMF approved Historic Allocation of \$650 billion of SDR

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the **allocation of \$650 billion in Special Drawing Rights (SDR).**
- The allocation is made **to help the countries to tackle pandemic COVID-19 and boost global liquidity.**

### IndusInd Bank to Act as an 'Agency Bank'

- The bank will be capable **to manage transactions related to revenue receipts under CBDT, CCBIC and GST** on the behalf of the state or central government.
- It will be able to make transactions **for pension payments and work on Small Savings Schemes (SSS) on the behalf of the state or central government.**

### World Bank approved Loan for India to Make Existing Dams Safe

- The **World Bank, GOI, Central Water Commission, government representatives from 10 participating states** approved loans for India to make its existing dams safe and resilient.

- The World Bank has approved a loan of \$250 million for India so that the country can make efforts to **have a long-term dam safety program to enhance the safety and performance of existing dams across various states.**

### **'Health and Wellness Savings Account'—Suryoday SFB**

- The **account offers top-up health insurance of Rs 25 lakhs, an annual healthcare package and on-call emergency ambulance medical care services.**
- The user between the **age group of 16 to 65 years can opt for the account either as a joint or single account.**

### **ADB sanctioned Loan for Water Supply Projects in Jharkhand**

- The ADB has sanctioned the **loan amount of USD 112 million to the Jharkhand for the same.**
- The project will **offer Jharkhand's residents with continuous and quality water supply.** It will be executed in Hussainabad, Jhumri Telaiya, Medininagar and Ranchi cities of the state.

### **Penalty imposed on Hewlett-Packard Financial Services (India) Private Ltd**

- The **penalty of Rs 6 lakh is imposed on Hewlett-Packard Financial Services (India) Private Ltd** for not following certain norms directed to it.
- RBI conducted a **statutory inspection of the company by considering its finance reference position as of 31st March 2019.**

### **RBI announced its Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its **August bi-monthly monetary policy.**
- As per the rates, the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has maintained the status quo for the seventh consecutive time.**

### **NABARD partnered with CWC**

- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** collaborated with Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC).
- They have collaborated **to offer better storage facilities to the farmers of India.**

### **'Swavalamban Challenge Fund'**

- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in partnership with Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK** launched 'Swavalamban Challenge Fund (SCF)'.  
• The SCF is a **challenge fund that will provide funds based on competition.**

### **Penalty on Banks if ATMs Run Out of Cash**

- As per the scheme, **monetary penalties will be imposed on banks if ATMs/WLAs run out of cash.**
- The decision by **RBI was taken with a concern over the inconvenience which arises to the community of India if there is non-availability of cash in ATMs.**



### RBI increases Collateral-Free Loans to SHGs under the DAY-NRLM

- The limit of **collateral-free loans is increased under the DAY-NRLM** (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission).
- The RBI has **raised the limit from Rs 10 lakhs to Rs 20 lakhs for the same.**

### 'Digital Prayaas' --- SIDBI

- It is launched with an objective **to sanction the loan to the low-income group's entrepreneurs by the end of the day** i.e. fast delivery of loan.
- It will promote, **finance and develop the MSME sector of India.**

### 'Equitech'-- Equitas Small Finance Bank

- It will provide **legal and regulatory mechanism support to Indian startups through expert solutions and venture capitalists.**
- To avail the **benefit of the programme, the startups are required to be registered before 6 years, should have atleast 2 full-time employees** with team members and must have an innovative product or services.

### 10 of the Major Banks formed SLMA to Support Secondary Loan Market

- The ten of the major **banks operating in India have formed the Secondary Loan Market Association (SLMA)** with an online platform.
- The formation of SLMA was made **for trading corporate loans in the secondary market.**

### EXIM Bank to Provide LoC of USD 100 million to Mauritius

- The loan will be utilised for the **procurement of defence items by the island nation.**
- The **rate of interest associated with the Line of credit** support will be a nominal value.

### RBI cancelled the License of Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited

- The RBI has also asked **Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra** to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.
- The **95% of the depositors of the bank will receive their full deposited amounts from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.**

### 'SBI Life eShield Next'-- SBI Life Insurance

- The 'SBI Life eShield Next' executes by increasing the **required insurance protection by increasing the sum assured linked to the significant level-up milestones in one's life.**
- The protection coverage under the **policy improves during major life events like getting married, becoming a parent, buying a new house.**

### 'Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM)'



- The Reserve Bank of India is implementing a **web-based end-to-end workflow automation system to give strength to compliance by supervised entities (SEs)**.
- The **web-based end-to-end workflow automation system** is named as 'Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM)'.

### Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Repayment Platform

- The '**Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Repayment Platform**' is a secured digital mode of repayment 'neo collection' platform.
- The platform **provides a secured, convenient, and highly efficient mode of repayment solution to the customers**.

### Exim Bank Extended Soft Loan Support to the Guinea

- The Exim Bank has provided a **soft loan worth USD 210.73 million to Guinea**.
- The loan amount will be utilised **for the projects like drinking water projects, the construction of hospitals and solar projects**.

### NIPL partnered with Mashreq Bank

- They have partnered **to launch the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment system facility in the UAE**.
- This will help **Indian tourists who travel to UAE for business or leisure purposes**. They will be able to perform transactions using UPI-based mobile applications in the UAE.

### USAID, DFC partnered with Kotak Mahindra Bank

- The USAID and USDFC will be sponsoring a **USD 50 million loan portfolio guarantee to the Kotak Mahindra Bank**.
- The main motto behind this partnership is **to provide financial support to women entrepreneurs and MSME**.

### Partnership between Paytm and HDFC Bank

- Paytm and HDFC Bank have entered into a strategic partnership with an aim **to deliver financial solutions to end consumers and merchants**.
- This partnership will lead to **boost the digital transformation in semi urban and rural India as it will be the combination of the bank's network, products, and credit features with Paytm's technological platform**.

### Recommendations on UCBs by RBI's Expert Committee

- The Reserve Bank of India released the **recommendations suggested by its expert committee on Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)**.
- The committee was asked **to suggest measures to have faster rehabilitation of UCBs and to review various regulatory norms** through amendments to the Banking Regulation Act 1949 in respect to UCBs.

### 'Freo Save' – Saving Account by FREO

- The account was launched in partnership with **Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB)**.
- The **'Freo Save' Saving account grants a 7% interest rate** and allows to have a minimum balance of Rs 1 lakh.

### '12% Club' App – BharatPe

- The app will allow customers **to invest and earn up to 12 % annual interest** or borrow at a similar rate.
- The app was launched in **partnership NBFCs which was approved by RBI**.

### 'ANANDA' Mobile App-- LIC

- The app is the **digital paperless solution for on-boarding activities** which are done by agents/intermediaries for their clients.
- The app will be used to register new LIC policies. **Only non-medical will be passed through the app.**

### RBI raised Limit Under Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme

- Under the new updates for the scheme, **RBI has raised the limit from Rs 50,000 per transaction to Rs 2 lakh per transaction.**
- Initially, there was a ceiling limit of **12 transactions per year, but now this limit is dismissed** by the central bank.



### 2021 Fortune's Global 500 List

- The **2021 Fortune's Global 500 list was released** and it revealed that **7 Indian companies** have found their remark in the list.
- The list is topped by **Walmart in terms of revenue of USD 524 billion.**

### Global Youth Development Index

- The index measures the **condition of young people from a total of 181 countries.**
- Under the index, **India is ranked at 122nd position** and it was found that **India is among the top five risers** on the index between 2010 and 2018.

### 2021 Skytrax World Airport Award Ranking

- The **Hyderabad airport is at 64th rank, Mumbai airport is at 65th rank** and Bengaluru airport is at 71st rank.
- The 1st rank was marked by **Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar.**

### 'Transparency Index: Rating of Pollution Control Boards on Public Disclosure'

- The report has assessed the **data disclosure performance of 29 state pollution control boards (SPCBs)** and six pollution control committees (PCCs) across India.
- The State Pollution Control Boards of **Odisha and Telangana are ranked at 1st position as per the report rankings.**

### Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti Scheme

- The 'Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti Scheme' aims **to adopt a holistic and integrated approach for growth in the infrastructure sector.**
- It also aims **to create employment opportunities for the Indian youth.**

### Financial Inclusion Index -- RBI

- It describes the inclusion of **financial-related activities like banking, investments, insurance, postal and pension sector in India.**
- The FI-Index value range **between 0 to 100; where 0 indicates complete financial exclusion while 100 indicates full financial inclusion.**

### 2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index

- The **2nd Global Crypto Adoption Index 2021 was released by Chainalysis**, which is a crypto analysis blockchain data platform.
- As per the index, **India is ranked at 2nd position out of 154 countries in terms of crypto adoption. India has scored 0.37.**

### EIU's Safe Cities Index 2021

- The index includes **ranking for 60 major global cities by considering 76 indicators** in the major domains like digital, health, infrastructure, environmental and personal security.
- The ranking is topped by **Copenhagen with a score of 82.4 out of 100.**

### Cushman & Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index

- The **Global Manufacturing Risk Index** was released by Cushman & Wakefield.
- As per the index ranking, **India is placed at 2nd position and has thus become the world's second most desired manufacturing destination.**

## REPORTS

### 'COVID-19 Innovation Report 2021'—Startup Blink

- As per the report rankings, **India is ranked at 32nd position with a score of 0.396 in terms of global coronavirus innovation rankings for countries.**
- The report has **ranked 40 countries and 100 cities in the world as per the innovations developed by them to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.**

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### Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021

- The list is comprised of the **500 most valuable non-state-controlled companies in the world** which are ranked as per their value of market capitalization.
- As per the report, the **1st rank is marked by Apple (USD 2,443 billion) and thus is termed to be the most valuable company.**

### NER District SDG Index Report

- India's premier policy think tank entity, **NITI Aayog released North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index Report 2021-22** in partnership with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/DoNER).
- East Sikkim has topped the **NER SDG Index 2021-22 with a score of Score 75.87.**

## APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Vice Admiral SN Ghormade	Vice Chief of Naval Staff
Deepak Das	Controller General of Accounts (CGA)
Guido Bellido	New Prime Minister of Peru
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing	Prime Minister of Myanmar
Priyanka Chopra Jonas	Brand ambassador for Bvlgari
Nikol Pashinyan	Prime Minister of Armenia
Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Chawla	Director-General of Artillery
Justice V M Kanade	New Lokayukta of Maharashtra
MS Dhoni	Brand Ambassador for HomeLane
Mini Ipe	MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
Prakash Chandra	Non-Executive (Part-time) Chairman of RBL Bank
Dr Dhriti Banerjee	Director of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)
Ebrahim Raisi	New President of Iran
Anthony Heredia	CEO of BOI AXA Investment Mangers Private Limited
John Abraham	Indian brand ambassador for MotoGP
Rajiv Gauba	Cabinet Secretary of India
Rekha Sharma	Chairperson of the National Commission for Woman (NCW)
Vandana Kataria	Brand Ambassador of Uttarakhand Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development
Neeraj Chopra	Brand Ambassador of RBI's public awareness campaign to warn people against digital banking frauds
Mohammad Mokhber	First Vice-President of Iran
Kamlesh Kumar Pant	New chairman of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)
Rajkummar Rao	Brand Ambassador of Cashify

## Monthly One-Liner GK Digest: August 2021

RK Vishnoi	CMD of THDC India Limited (THDCIL)
BD Mishra	Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
Ganga Prasad	Governor of Sikkim
Narain Karthikeyan	Brand Ambassador of JK Tyre & Industries Ltd
Noopur Chaturvedi	CEO of NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd.
Hakainde Hichilema	President of Zambia
P R Sreejesh	Brand Ambassador of Adventure Tourism in Kerala
Priyanka Chopra Jonas	Chairperson of Jio MAMI (Mumbai Academy of Moving Image ) Film Festival
Mirabai Chanu	Brand Ambassador for Amway India
Shanti Lal Jain	MD and CEO of Indian Bank
MS Dhoni	Brand Ambassador of Neuberg Diagnostics
NK Singh	New President of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society
Dr Tejendra M Bhasin	Chairman of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF)
Ismail Sabri Yaakob	New Prime Minister of Malaysia
La. Ganesan	New Governor of Manipur
Nakul Chopra	CEO of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC)
Sunil Sethi	To head the committee set up by GOI to work for doubling the production and quadrupling the exports in the Handloom sector
Sandeep Bakhshi	MD & CEO of ICICI Bank by RBI
Alia Bhat	Brand Ambassador of Samsung India
Pawandeep Rajan	Brand Ambassador of Uttarakhand art, tourism and culture
Ajay Kumar	Executive Director of RBI
Carol Furtado	Interim CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
Hitendra Dave	CEO of HSBC Bank (India)
Mansukh Mandaviya	Chairperson of the Stop TB Partnership Board
Sonu Sood	Brand Ambassador of the Delhi government's 'Desh Ke Mentors' programme
Banwarilal Purohit	Additional Charge of Governor of Punjab and Administrator of UT of Chandigarh
Leander Paes	Strategic Advisor and Brand Ambassador for India's sports edtech startup named 'Sporjo'
Amit Banerjee	CMD of BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Limited)
Rajnish Kumar	Independent director of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Asia

### AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awards	Awardee
Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2021	Asha Bhosle

## Monthly One-Liner GK Digest: August 2021

Will Eisner Comic Industry Award as 'Best Painter/Multimedia Artist (interior art)'	Anand Radhakrishnan
Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021	Dr Cyrus Poonawalla
'IMC RBNQ Efficiency Excellence Trophy 2020'	Kasturba Hospital, Manipal
Prof CR Rao Centenary Gold Medal (CGM)	Jagdish Bhagwati and C Rangarajan
National Science Foundation Innovation-Corps (NSF I-Corps) Teams Award in the US	SoftWorthy
National Youth Award by the Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur	Mohammad Azam

### IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
1 <sup>st</sup> August to 7 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	World Breastfeeding Week (WBW)	<b>Theme:</b> 'Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility'
6 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Hiroshima Day	--
6 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	34 <sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of TRIFED (Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India)	--
7 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	National Handloom Day	--
9 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Nagasaki Day	--
9 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	<b>Theme:</b> 'Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract'
10 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	World Lion Day	--
10 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	World Biofuel Day	--
12 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	International Youth Day	<b>Theme:</b> 'Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health'
12 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	World Elephant Day	--
13 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	International Left-Handers Day	--
13 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	World Organ Donation Day	--
15 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	75 <sup>th</sup> Independence Day of India	--
19 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	World Photography Day	--
19 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	World Humanitarian Day	<b>Theme:</b> #TheHumanRace: a global challenge for climate action in solidarity with people who need it the most
20 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Akshay Urja Diwas (Renewable Energy Day)	--
20 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	World Mosquito Day	<b>Theme:</b> Reaching the zero-malaria target
20 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Sadbhavana Diwas	--
21 <sup>st</sup> August 2021	World Senior Citizen Day	--

## Monthly One-Liner GK Digest: August 2021

21 <sup>st</sup> August 2021	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	--
19 <sup>th</sup> August to 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Sanskrit Week	--
22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2021	World Sanskrit Day	--
22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2021	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	--
23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2021	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	--
23 <sup>rd</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	World Water Week	<b>Theme:</b> 'Building Resilience Faster'
29 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	International Day against Nuclear Tests	--
29 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	National Sports Day or Rashtriya Khel Divas	--
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	National Small Industry Day	--
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	--
31 <sup>st</sup> August 2021	International Day for People of African Descent	--

### MOUS SIGNED

#### MSIP signed MoU with Invest India

- The **Meghalaya State Investment Promotion Society (MSIP)** has signed MoU with Invest India to promote industries and trade activities in Meghalaya.
- Both entities will work **to support investment opportunities in order to enhance trade activities in Meghalaya.**

#### Indian Bank signed MoU with IIT Bombay

- The **SINE is an initiative of IIT Bombay.** It supports the MSME through R&D work, technical work and financial support.
- The MoU was signed **to support the startups and small businesses with credit facilities.**

#### CII signed Agreement with SII

- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has entered into an agreement with the Serum Institute of India (SII).
- They have collaborated **to speed up the vaccination process in partnership with health care providers and industries in the country.**

#### IFFCO's NBRC signed MoU with IIT Delhi



- The IIT Delhi and IFFCO-NBRC will offer support by sharing their research laboratories for research work and consultancies.
- This MoU will prove beneficial for having research work in the Nanotechnology domain which will be useful in future.

### Assam Gov. signed MoU with NABARD and AIFA

- The MoU was signed to have assistance support for various developmental projects which are being executed in Assam.
- Under this MoU, capital intensive projects will be launched which will assist in the development activities of the state.

### IIFL HFL signed Agreement with ADB

- The cost of the work under the agreement is approx. \$1 million (over Rs 7.4 crore).
- The funds will be granted by ADB under Urban Climate Change Resilience (UCCR) Trust Fund.

### Earth Science Bodies of India and the US signed MoU

- The MoU was signed between India's National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the US.
- The entities will work to improve monsoon data analysis and will develop cooperation for the weather forecast in the regions.

### NABARD sign MoU with SBI and JKGB

- The MoU was signed to offer financial assistance to 1000 Joint Liability Group (JLGs).
- The MoU will allow support of credit to tenant farmers, oral lessees, sharecroppers, SF/MF etc. who at times are not having proper title to their landholding.

### Indian Bank signed MoU with PCI

- Indian bank has entered into MoU as one of the banking partners of the upcoming Paralympic Games.
- Under the MoU, the bank will offer financial assistance to Paralympic athletes.

### BEAM signed MoU with FDRVC

- The MoU was signed to strengthen the price discovery mechanism of the commodities which are traded by Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).
- The FPOs which are under FDRVC will be made eligible to explore market technologies that are offered by BSE.

### India & ADB Signed Loan Agreement for Metro Rail Network in Bengaluru

- The ADB will grant the loan support of USD 500 million for the same.

- The enhancement in **Bengaluru's metro rail network will be made by constructing two new metro lines** of 56 kilometers with the help of this loan.

### India signed pact with Maldives for Greater Male Connectivity Project

- **India has granted USD 400 million Line of Credit (LoC) and USD 100 million** for the vast GMCP project in Maldives.
- The **USD 400 million LoC will be provided by the Exim Bank.**

### MeitY Startup Hub signed MoU with Paytm

- The MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) which comes under the **Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) has entered into MoU with Paytm.**
- The MoU was signed **to grant support to deep tech-based startups in India.**

### India and UAE entered into Agreement to Send Visiting Professors at NYUAD

- In this regard, the agreement was signed between **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and New York University Abu Dhabi.**
- The agreement was signed **to develop a Visiting Professorship in Social Science at NYUAD.** The NYUAD is a portal campus of New York University serving as a private liberal arts college in Abu Dhabi.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

### 'Krishikarna' Project-- Kerala

- The project is the joint initiative of the **National Society for Agricultural Horticulture (SAHS), the Sustainability Foundation and Qore3 Innovations.**
- Under this, **SAHS will be promoting agricultural and gardening practices.**

### 'e-RUPI' -- Digital Payment Solution

- The **'e-RUPI' will make sure that benefits reach their intended beneficiaries** in a leak-proof manner.
- The **'e-RUPI' is a cashless and contactless instrument that will be used for digital payment transactions.**

### 'Har Hith Store' Scheme-- Haryana

- The scheme was launched with the aim **to motivate the youth of the state towards self-employment.**
- Under the scheme, **a chain of grocery shops will be opened in rural and urban areas to sell quality products** of daily needs at affordable prices.

### 'Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert'—Mobile App

- The app is developed by **IIT Roorkee and Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA).**

- The **app makes use of the Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system**. The EEW is based on real time approach and detects the onset of an earthquake situation.

### **'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam Scheme'--- Tamil Nadu**

- The significance of the **'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam Scheme'** is to provide **healthcare services at people's doorstep**.
- The scheme will help to **eradicate the need for patients to visit hospitals and clinics** to get treatment for non-communicable diseases.

### **'PM-DAKSH' Portal and Mobile App**

- The **Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar** launched the **'PM-DAKSH'** portal and mobile app.
- The **'PM-DAKSH'** portal and mobile app will **provide easy access to the skill development schemes to the target groups**.

### **eNagar Mobile Application and Portal-- Gujarat**

- The **app and portal are launched in regards to the eNagar project** which aims to offer efficient, transparent community-based services and back-office operation support to the people of Gujarat.
- The Gujarat **Development Mission is the nodal agency for eNagar project**.

### **'KFC Startup Kerala'**

- The scheme will **support financially the startups in all areas of their development**.
- This fund is the **first of its kind in which all the stages of startups are considered**.

### **'Cleancity app'--North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC)**

- The mobile app will help the **resident of Delhi to file complaints about picking up garbage in their surrounding area**.
- The app facility will be availed by **residents of Civil Lines Zone, Keshavpuram Zone and Rohini Zone**.

### **'SonChiraiya'**

- The **'SonChiraiya'** is a brand and **logo for marketing products made by the urban Self-Help Group (SHG)**.
- The **'SonChiraiya'** – (A brand and logo) was launched by **Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.

### **Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Card Scheme 2021-- Rajasthan**

- The interest-free loan of upto **Rs 50,000 will be provided to the beneficiaries**.
- The scheme will prove **beneficial to 5 lakh beneficiaries of the state by developing employment opportunities**.

### **Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services (TAPAS)**

- The portal will **deliver lectures, courses and study material in soft copy format to the social defence students and learners.**
- The TAPAS initiative belongs to the **National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**

### 'My e-Haat' Online Portal—HCL Foundation

- The HCL Foundation is the **corporate social responsibility entity of HCL Technologies.**
- The 'My e-Haat' online portal will **provide an empowerment platform for artisans and primary producers.**

### 'PROOF' App

- The app was launched **to offer transparency and accountability in the governance system of the UT.**
- The PROOF signifies **'Photographic Record of On-site Facility'.**

### Karkhandar Scheme – Jammu and Kashmir

- The scheme will be implemented by the **Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir/Jammu.**
- The scheme will boost the **crafts having good potential and also the crafts which are languishing ones will also be promoted through the scheme.**

### Odisha announced Smart Health Cards Scheme

- The 'Smart Health Cards Scheme' will **provide hassle-free health treatment services. It aims to transform the health service delivery system.**
- The Smart Health Cards will be **similar to debit cards for a certain amount.**

### 'FRUITS' Portal

- This portal is the **first of its kind initiative in the country by the state government to collect and store data of the land details of farmers.**
- The portal is launched as a **pilot project and soon will be expanded to other financial institutions.**

### Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana-- Chhattisgarh

- The Chhattisgarh government launched the **'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana'.**
- The scheme is launched **for landless workers of the state.**

### Three Online Applications Launched by DST

- The **Department of Science and Technology (DST) launched three online applications** which will allow the users to purchase and download the products related to geospatial mapping online.
- The applications will deliver geospatial data **which is collected by the government and associated organisations to the people in a free and easy manner.**

### 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund'

- The scheme will help the **MSME sector to become future champions** with good export potential.
- The scheme is basically **launched for export-oriented firms and startups of India.**

### 'Yuktdhara'-- New Geospatial Planning Portal

- The portal is framed under **Bhuvan 'Yuktdhara'** and it will allow to plan of new **MGNREGA assets** through remote sensing and GIS data.
- The portal will be **integrating thematic layers and multi-temporal high-resolution earth observation data with the analysis tools.**

### Talent Search Campaign – Madhya Pradesh

- The state government also aims **to give training to these new talents in a total of 18 sports academies of the state.**
- Therefore the **CM of state, Shivraj Singh Chouhan has made an appeal to the youth** having an interest in sports to register for the Talent Search Campaign.

### 'SUJALAM' Campaign

- The campaign was launched **to create Open Defecation Free (ODF) plus villages by undertaking wastewater management at the village level.**
- It is a 100-day long campaign and is part of the **'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.**

### 'SAMRIDH' Programme

- The programme will support **300 IT-based startups for a duration of 6 months.**
- The programme aims **to create 100 unicorns from the selected IT/Software based startups** by offering them funds, mentor guidance and access to the markets.

### 'Mera Kaam Mera Maan' Scheme-- Punjab

- The MKMM scheme aims **to support unemployed youth in refining their skill sets.**
- The scheme will help them **to enhance their employability skills so that they can earn for their life.**

## DEFENCE

### 36th CORPAT Exercise

- India was represented by the **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, which is an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel.** The Indonesian Navy was represented by Naval Ship KRI Bung Tomo.
- The 36th edition of COPAT was **conducted in non-contact, at sea only mode considering the pandemic COVID-19 norms.**

### 'AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2021' Naval Exercise

- The **'AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2021'** is the **first naval exercise between the Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force** that has commenced.

- The exercise is being held to showcase the defence and military cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia.

### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

#### ISRO-NASA Joint Mission NISAR to be launched in 2023

- The NISAR mission aims to measure changes in the earth's surface globally with the help of advanced radar images.
- The mission is termed a **dual-band (L-band and S-band) radar imaging mission**. It is based on full polarimetric and interferometric modes of operation.

#### 'Health QUEST Study'

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launched the 'Health QUEST Study'.
- The Health ISRO Study will help to offer upgradation in healthcare systems and its standards in India in line with the quality standards of ISRO.

#### 'Zayed Talwar Exercise 2021'

- UAE was represented by **AES AI – Dhafra**, which is a Baynunah class guided missile corvette and AS – 565B Panther helicopter.
- Under the naval exercise, **both the navies undertook tactical manoeuvres, over the horizon targeting, search and rescue operations and electronic warfare drills.**

#### India's First Drone Forensic Lab

- It was inaugurated by **Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan at the Kerala State Police CyberDome.**
- The lab and research centre will be a **platform for keeping a tracking watch over unauthorized drones.**

#### Liberalised Drone Rules, 2021

- These rules involved **various paperwork, permissions for every drone flight**, and very few 'free to fly' green zones were available.
- These rules were adopted by academia, **Startups, end-users, and other stakeholders. For these rules, the GOI had received feedback and in this regard**, the GOI decided to repeal the UAS Rules, 2021.

#### India's First 'Quantum Computer Simulator (QSim) Toolkit'

- It is the first-of-its-kind toolkit developed to be the major tool of learning programming skills using **Quantum Computers.**
- It is jointly developed by **scientists and experts of IIT Roorkee, C-DAC, and IISc Bangalore.**

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

### 6th BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group Meet

- The meeting was held under the **Chairship of Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary for Counter-Terrorism, Ministry of External Affairs of India.**
- The objective of the meeting was **to finalize BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan.**

### 2nd Edition of IEEE- ICORT 2021

- The event was organised by **Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**
- The IEEE-ICORT was inaugurated by **Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO.**

### G20 Digital Ministers Meeting 2021

- The Indian side was represented by **Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw.**
- The meeting was chaired by **Giancarlo Giorgetti (Economic Development Minister of Italy) and Vittorio Colao (Minister for Technological Innovation and Digital Transition of Italy).**

### 28th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers Meeting

- Indian side represented the view on the **Indo-Pacific perspective, terrorism threat, cybersecurity and maritime security.**
- India also discussed the **importance of UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) in maritime and cybersecurity domains.**

### 8th Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the SCO

- The **Indian side was represented by Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju and Minister of State for Law & Justice, Prof SP Singh Baghel.**
- At the meeting, **Union Minister Kiren Rijiju mentioned the initiatives taken by GOI to grant justice in an affordable and effective manner to the citizens of the country.**

### PM Modi chaired UNSC Debate

- **India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) open debate through video conference.**
- The dignitaries discussed the measures **to counter crime held in areas like maritime and assured to enhance partnership to strengthen maritime domain.**

### IBSA Tourism Ministers Meeting

- The meeting was organised **to enhance cooperation in the tourism sector among IBSA nations.**
- The moto of the meeting was **to overcome the negative impact of COVID-19 on the tourism sector.**



### 6th SCO Agriculture Ministers Meeting

- The innovative technologies have been implemented into the lands **to empower rural youth, farmers and farm women.**
- He also mentioned that **during the pandemic, India's Agri sector performed well. India's food production** has increased along with the export sector.

### 11th Annual Meeting of FEMBoSA

- The meeting was held under the **theme of 'Use of Technology in Elections'.**
- The FEMBoSA is a part of the democratic world and is a cooperative unit of association of election management bodies. It aims **to enhance cooperation in respect of SAARC's Election Management Bodies.**

### 5th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting

- The meeting observed the participation of **Industry Ministers from BRICS Countries.**
- The Indian side highlighted its efforts **to use technology for good governance in order to have transparency and accountability.**

### 11th BRICS NSA Meeting

- The **11th edition of the BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security** meeting was held in a virtual manner.
- The meeting was held **to strengthen political-security cooperation among BRICS nations.**

### 1st G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment

- The first-ever **G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment** was held in a hybrid format in Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy.
- The Indian delegation was led by **Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani.**

### 11th Meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers Meet

- The 11th Meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers Meeting was chaired by **Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.**
- The meeting was held under the theme of **'BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security'.**

### India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit 2021

- The **India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit 2021** was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Anupriya Patel.
- It was the major **platform to discuss the involvement of Indian industries in engineering trade and investments areas at the ASEAN level.**