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**MONTHLY
ONE-LINER GK
DIGEST:
DECEMBER**



2021

Monthly One-Liner GK Digest: December 2021

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Clean Energy and Climate Partnership

- India and European Union (EU) have decided to **step up their Clean Energy and Climate Partnership**.
- They will implement the **2016 India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership**.

Japan launched World's First Dual-Mode Vehicle

- It runs on **normal rubber tyres on the road but its steel wheels which are in its underbelly**, descend when it hits the rail tracks.
- It carries **21 passengers** and has a speed of **60km/h on rail tracks and 100km/h on public roads**.

NATIONAL NEWS

40th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021

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- The **40th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021** was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal.
- The theme of the event was **'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'** and to promote **'Vocal for Local'**.

PM Modi Laid Foundation Stone for Projects in Dehradun

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of multiple projects in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- He inaugurated **7 projects worth Rs 2573 crore** and laid the foundation stone for **11 projects worth Rs 15728 crore**.

Airtel partnered with Invest India

- India's major telecom company, **Bharti Airtel** has entered into a partnership with **Invest India**.
- They have partnered to launch the **'Airtel India Startup Innovation Challenge'**.

PM Modi inaugurated Saryu Nahar National Project

- The **work of the project was started in 1978**, but due to lack of continuity in budget support, inadequate monitoring, and other reasons, the project was delayed for 4 decades.
- In 2016, the project was **brought under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana**.

ISRO partnered with Oppo India

- The MoU was signed to **work in the field of R&D of the NavIC messaging service**.
- The service will be utilized by **Oppo in its phones which will be released in Indian markets for sale**.

PM Modi inaugurated the Phase 1 of Kashi Vishwanath Dham

- It is constructed to **offer an easy access pathway to connect Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple** to the banks of the Ganga River.
- Before inaugurating, **PM Modi offered prayers to Lord Shiva at Kashi Vishwanath temple**.

Maharashtra Tops in having Max Beneficiaries under ABRY

- Maharashtra has recorded **6,49,560 beneficiaries under ABRY**.
- These beneficiaries have been provided with a **total of Rs 409.72 crore under the scheme to new employees of 17,524 establishments**.

PM Modi laid Foundation Stone for Ganga Expressway

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone for **Ganga Expressway** in the Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- The funds of **Rs 36,000 crore** are allocated for this expressway.

India's First International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC)

- The IAMC is set up at **VK Towers in Gachibowli** which is an information technology hub.

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- It is **25,000 sq ft temporary accommodation** and the permanent land for the building will be accommodated at Puppalaguda in Hyderabad.

'LogiXtics'- ULIP Hackathon

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** launched 'LogiXtics' which is a Unified Logistics Interface Platform's (ULIP) Hackathon.
- It aims **to enhance the penetration of ideas that will benefit the logistics sector and industries.**

PM Modi launched Projects worth Rs 650 cr. for Goa

- **India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various developmental projects for Goa.
- The projects worth **Rs 650 crores** were inaugurated by **PM Modi** on the account of Goa Liberation Day.

NPCI partnered with UdeMy Business

- They have partnered **to encourage continuous learning and skill development** of NPCI employees.
- The partnership will be **executed for 3 years.**

PM Modi laid Foundation Stone for Various Projects in Varanasi

- He laid the foundation stone for **'Banas Dairy Sankul'** at the state's **Industrial Development Authority** Food Park, based in Karkhiyaon, Varanasi.
- It will occupy the **land of 30 acres** and the total cost will be **Rs 475 crores.** It will have a facility for processing 5 lakh liters of milk per day.

Different Projects of TRIFED were Launched

- It included a **Van Dhan Chronicle, 9 promotional videos on TRIBES INDIA, TRIFOOD, MSP for MFP, and Van Dhan Yojana** made by National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and 14 Honey Farmer Producer Organisations.
- The MoU was also signed between **Tribal Ministry and UNICEF on Tribal Samvaad Network.**

PM Modi laid Foundation Stone of Hydropower Projects in HP

- It will help **to enhance the economy of the state and will generate large power** for the purpose of various users in the state.
- He laid the foundation stone of the **Renukaji Dam project which was pending for around 3 decades.** It is a **40MW project and costs Rs 7000 crore.**

PM Modi laid Foundation Stone for Projects in Uttarakhand

- The foundation stone for the **AIIMS Rishikesh satellite center** was laid down with funds of **Rs 500 crore.**
- The Jagjivan Ram Government Medical College will be **established at Pithoragarh with funds of Rs 450 crore.**

BANKING

ADB approved Loan for Uttarakhand Water Supply and Sanitation Projects

- The **136 kilometers of water pipe system will be constructed**. This water pipe system will replace defective water networks in South Dehradun.
- The fresh, reliable, and continuous **water supply will be delivered to 40,000 people of the state**.

India's GDP to be at 8.3% for Q2 FY22—Ind-Ra

- The **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)** has projected that **India's GDP to be at 8.3%** for the second quarter of the financial year 2022 i.e. Q2 FY22.
- It has projected that **India's GDP for the whole year i.e. FY22 to be at 9.4%**.

IBRD (World Bank arm) Approved Loan for West Bengal

- The **World Bank Group's arm International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** has approved a loan to West Bengal to improve the operational efficiency and reliability of electricity supply in the state.
- The loan of **USD 135 million loans was approved for the same**.

India's GDP to be at 9.4% for FY22-- OECD

- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has estimated that **India's GDP to be at 9.4%** for FY22.
- Earlier it has **estimated India's GDP to be at 9.7%** for the same.

ADB Approved \$500 Million Loan to GOI

- The funds will support **the Integrated Scheme for School Education (Samagra Shiksha) and the new Exemplar School Initiative** of the Education Ministry.
- This will help **to enhance and improve education quality as it will lead to imparting inclusive and equitable learning results**.

Paytm Money Partnered with PMS Bazaar

- The PMS Marketplace will be **used to select users followed by a complete rollout**.
- It grants a **transparent and comprehensive analysis of all PMS schemes**. Due to this, the platform becomes trustworthy for HNI investors.

Mahila Mitra Plus—Federal Bank

- The Federal Bank launched the **Mahila Mitra Plus savings scheme**. It is a feature-rich savings bank product launched for women.
- The Mahila Mitra Plus offers a curated **set of features and makes financial planning and investments easy and efficient for women**.

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'PNB Pride-CRMD Module Tool'

- The Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched the 'PNB Pride-CRMD module tool'. It is an **android-based mobile application that was launched particularly** for differently-abled employees.
- It will help **differently-abled employees to monitor and effectively take follow up with the special mention account (SMA) borrowers.**

'Active Health Essential'- Health Solution Plan by ABHICL

- The Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Ltd. (ABHICL) launched a **health solution plan named as 'Activ Health Essential'.**
- The 'Activ Health Essential' is an **affordable health solution plan which is launched for senior citizens** to meet their special health needs.

Paytm Partnered with AWS

- The Paytm Startup Toolkit comes with exclusive payment services and will prove beneficial to the early-stage startups in India.
- This will help the entrepreneurs to enhance their businesses in terms of payment, distribution, and growth solutions.

ICICI Bank Partnered with Flipkart

- They have partnered to offer an **instant and completely digital overdraft (OD) facility to individual sellers and businesses** who are associated with Flipkart
- The OD facility of up to **Rs 25 lakhs will be given under this partnership.**

RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Highlights

- The real GDP growth is projected at **9.5% in 2021-22 and for Q1 of 2022-23 it is projected** to be at 17.2%.
- The inflation projection was retained for **FY22 at 5.3%, 5.1% for Q3, 5.7% for Q4, and 5% for Q1 FY23.**

Paytm Payments Bank received Scheduled Bank Status

- With the status the **Paytm Payments Bank** is inducted in the **Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.**
- This will lead to **bringing more financial services and products** to the Paytm Payments Bank.

Kotak General Insurance partnered with Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank

- They have partnered to **offer a range of insurance products to the bank's customers.**
- The **Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank Ltd** will distribute **Kotak General Insurance's general** and health insurance products via its network of 21 branches.

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'#Care4Hockey' Campaign-- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

- Through the campaign, the **insurance company will support underprivileged children** to pursue careers in Hockey sport.
- They will be supported through **coaching, nutrition, and equipment by the Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.**

'bob World Wave'— Bank of Baroda

- It is a wearable line of **products used for payments and is integrated** with a complete health ecosystem.
- It will allow the customers to **monitor SpO2, body temperature, heart rate, and blood pressure.**

'Dhan Rekha'- Individual Savings Life Insurance Plan

- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has launched an **individual savings** life insurance plan with the name 'Dhan Rekha'.
- The minimum sum assured under **Dhan Rekha' insurance plan is Rs 2 lakh and there is no upper limit on the maximum sum assured.**

'SBI Card PULSE'

- It is launched on the **Visa Signature platform and has an annual membership** charge of Rs 1,499.
- It provides users with a **Noise ColorFit Pulse Smartwatch of Rs. 4,999, which is a welcome gift to the user given on payment of the joining fee.**

ADB to Offer \$112 million Loan for ASU

- The **loan of \$112 million will be provided by ADB** for the same.
- The ASU will help **to strengthen skills education and training facilities.**

RBI brought NBFCs under PCA Framework

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has brought **Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs)** under the ambit of prompt corrective action (PCA) framework.
- The aim behind this step by **RBI was to strengthen supervisory tools which are upon NBFCs.**

Axis Bank partnered with Swift

- **Axis bank is collaborating with various digitization initiatives set up by government bodies** and service providers to offer an end-to-end service to business clients.
- In this partnership, **Swift will support Axis bank's B2B (business-to-business) digitization efforts.**

Pine Labs partnered with AU Small Finance Bank

- The partnership will allow the **credit cardholders of the bank to avail of EMI offers.**
- The **EMI at the PoS** can be availed under the partnership.

IPRULIFE- 1st Insurance Company to Sign UNPRI

- The **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance (IPRULIFE)** has signed **United Nations-supported Principles** for Responsible Investment (UNPRI).
- It helps a network of investors who have signed the **agreement in incorporating these factors into their investment and ownership decisions.**

'Health Prime' Wellness Rider—Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

- To launch this **facility and grant various services under this, the insurance company** has made a partnership with Bajaj Finserv Health Ltd.
- It covers 4 key areas namely **Tele-consultation Cover, Doctor Consultation Cover, Investigations Cover, and Annual Preventive Health Check-up Cover.**

Liberty General Insurance partnered with CSC e-Governance Services India

- The **CSC e-Governance Services India** comes under the **Ministry of Electronics** and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Through this, **Liberty General Insurance will sell its insurance products to the rural communities** via a network of CSC e-Governance Services India.

ICICI Lombard partnered with Clove Dental

- They have partnered to **offer dental insurance services to the customers of ICICI Lombard** via Clove Dental.
- The oral health support to **Clove Dental's consumers who will undergo necessary dental treatment** and the expenses will be covered under insurance benefits of ICICI Lombard.

CSB Bank to Perform as 'Agency Bank' as per RBI

- The CSB bank is the **private sector lender and now will function as an 'Agency Bank' to undertake general banking businesses of central** and state governments as per the guidelines framed by RBI.
- It will now work with **various state and central governments to perform the businesses like tax collections, pension payments, stamp duty collections, etc.**

Central Bank of India signed Co-Lending Agreement with U GRO Capital

- Under this, **it aims to disburse up to Rs 1,000 crore** to the MSMEs in the one-year time span.
- The amount will be **disbursed to U GRO Capital's varied MSME segments.**

Paytm partnered with MoneyGram

- The funds will be **transferred directly into the Paytm Wallet.**
- Due to this partnership, **MoneyGram customers across the world will be able to send money to the millions of fully KYC compliant Paytm Wallets** in India in a real-time domain.

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PNB entered into Co-Lending Agreement with Lendingkart

- Under the agreement, **both the entities will focus on digital underwriting and cash flow-based lending.**
- They will work to benefit MSMEs. **The MSMEs will be able to avail funds at an affordable rate to execute their tasks.**

Indipaisa partnered with NSDL Payments Bank

- The partnership will help **to empower owners of SMEs in compliance with government tax laws** and the sustainable future of SMEs.
- **Various affordable and convenient payment acceptance options** for the owners of SMEs will be developed.

HDFC Bank partnered with IPPB

- They have signed MoU **to provide banking services to the customers of IPPB in semi-urban and rural areas.**
- This will help **to enhance financial inclusion in the semi-urban and rural areas** through the network of IPPB.

IndusInd Bank launched 'Green Fixed Deposits'

- In this, the deposit proceeds will be used **to finance projects to support United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDG).**
- The 'green fixed deposits' will be **offered to retail and corporate sectors.**

ICICI Pru iProtect Return of Premium

- The **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** has launched 'ICICI Pru iProtect Return of Premium'.
- Basically, it is the **customer-centric plan which offers protection cover wherein the quantum of life cover is automatically adjusted based on the customer's life stages.**

Karnataka partnered with NPCI and SBI

- The 'e-RUPI' payment solution will be launched for **students under its scholarship program.**
- To redeem the e-RUPI, the **institutes will have to scan QR codes or SMS strings which will be displayed by students through an app.**

INDEX AND RANKING

EIU's Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021

- The **EIU's (Economist Intelligence Unit's) Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021** was announced.
- As per the index, **Tel Aviv, Israel is the most expensive city in the world to live in 2021.**

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Lowy Institute Asia Power Index 2021

- As per the index, **India is ranked at 4th position to become the most powerful country** in the Asia-Pacific region with a score of 37.7 out of 100.
- The 1st position was gained by the **United States with a score of 82.2 out of 100.**

Global Health Security Index 2021

- The index is topped by the **United States with an index score of 75.9.**
- The **2nd and 3rd positions are marked by Australia and Finland** respectively.

Global Unicorn Index 2021

- As per the index, **India is ranked at 3rd position.**
- **India has replaced the UK at the 3rd spot** thus by adding 33 unicorns in 2020.

India ranked 3rd Among Dope Violators

- The report is topped by **Russia with 162 number times involvement in dope-related activities.**
- The second position is **marked by Italy with 157 number times involvement** in dope-related activities.

Good Governance Index 2021

- The GGI 2021 is framed by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).**
- The index **analyzes and assesses the state of Governance** across the states and UTs.

NITI Aayog's 4th State Health Index for 2019–20

- The State Health Index **provides health outcomes and status of Indian states and UTs.**
- The ranking of the index was **framed by NITI Aayog, World Bank, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) jointly.**

Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement (ARIIA) 2021

- The ARIIA is an initiative under the **Ministry of Education and it ranks major educational institutions and universities** as per their performance in 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development'.
- The rankings were made under two categories- **Technical and Non-Technical.**

REPORTS

10th Annual World Cooperative Monitor Report 2021

- As per the report, **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) was ranked as 'number one Cooperative' among the top 300 cooperatives** in the world. It has held the same position as last year.
- In the overall ranking, **IFFCO is ranked at 60th position in the 2021 report of WCM.**

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World Migration Report 2022

- As per the report, the **number of air passengers at the global level dropped to 60% in 2020** to 1.8 billion (down from 4.5 billion in 2019).
- Also, the **internal displacement due to disaster, conflict, and violence is increased to 40.5million** (up from 31.5 million in 2019).

Top 100 Arms-Producing and Military Services Companies 2020

- The HAL is ranked at **42nd position**, BEL at 66th and Indian Ordnance Factories' is ranked at 60th position in the list.
- The companies of India **contribute 1.2% of total arms sales of companies in the SIPRI Top 100 list of 2020.**

Forbes' List of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women 2021

- The '**Forbes' list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women 2021**' or '**18th Edition of Forbes'** list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women' was released recently.
- As per the list, **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was ranked at 37th position.** This is for the third time in a row that she has attained a position on the list.

India Skills Report 2022

- The report reveals that a **higher percentage of women than men are found to be employable in India.**
- The sectors like **IT, pharmaceutical, e-commerce, and banking, financial services, and insurance** will hire 20% more fresh graduates in 2022 than in 2021.

World Inequality Report 2022

- The economic reforms and liberalization **framed and adopted by India have proved beneficial** to the top 1%.
- In India, **1% richest people hold 22% of the total national income in 2021** and the top 10% owns 57% of the income.

World Talent Ranking Report 2021

- The report **analyses and ranks the ability of nations in developing**, attracting, and retaining talent.
- As per the report, **India is ranked at 56th position among 64 nations.**

CEBR World Economic League Table 2022

- As per the report, **India is highlighted as the 6th largest economy in 2022** and the 3rd largest economy in 2031.
- India's economic forecast by CEBR for various years is: **7th (2021), 6th (2022), 5th (2026), 3rd (2031), and 3rd (2036).**

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APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Eva Magdalena Andersson	1st Female Prime Minister of Sweden
Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Mago	Commandant of National Defence College (NDC)
Ajay Bhushan Pandey	Head the committee set up by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to review the criteria for reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category as per the norms of the provisions of the explanation to Article 15 of the Constitution
Sambit Patra	Chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
Sanjay Dutt	Brand Ambassador for the 50th-year celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh
Smriti Mandhana	Brand ambassador of GUVI
Naomi Kawase	UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for cultural and creative industries
Pradip Shah	Chairman of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)
Sanjay Jain	Chief executive of India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL)
Gita Gopinath	IMF's Deputy Managing Director
Alka Upadhyaya	Chairperson of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
Sanjay Bandopadhyay	Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India
Dharmendra S Gangwar	Secretary, Department of Border Management
Sundeep Kumar Nayak	Director-General, National Productivity Council, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade
Ravindra Jadeja	Brand ambassador of Kinara Capital
Jasprit Bumrah	Brand ambassador of Unix
Adama Barrow	President of Gambia
Ittira Davis	MD and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
Sunil Arora	Board of Advisors for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)
Neeraj Chopra and PV Sindhu	Brand ambassadors of Disney BYJU'S Early Learn App
Sanjiv Mehta	President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
Olaf Scholz	New German chancellor
Arvind Kumar	Director-General of Software Technology
Leena Nair	New global CEO of Chanel
Ravinder Bhakar	Charge of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Films Division, and Children Films Society of India (CFSI)

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Catherine Russell	Head of UN children's agency UNICEF
Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane	India's new Chief of Staff Committee (CoSC)
Madhabi Puri Buch	Head a 7-member committee set up by SEBI for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS)
Mohit Jain	President of The Indian Newspaper Society for the year 2021-22
Rishabh Pant	Brand ambassador of Uttarakhand
Karl Nehammer	President of Austria
Atul Dinkar Rane	New CEO and MD of BrahMos Aerospace Limited
Pradeep Kumar Rawat	India's next Ambassador to China
Harjinder Singh	India's Chef de Mission 2022 Winter Olympics
PV Sindhu	Member of the Badminton World Federation's (BWF) Athletes'
Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra	Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Uttarakhand
HO Suri	MD and CEO of IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance
Rajeev Ahuja	New MD of RBL Bank
Kamlesh Gandhi	Co-Chairman of the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC)
Mohammed Ben Sulayem	First non-European president of motorsport's world governing body, the International Automobile Federation (FIA)
Eishin Chihana	New Chairman of India Yamaha Motor (IYM) Pvt Ltd
Narandran 'Jody' Kollapen	South Africa's highest judicial bench, the Constitutional Court
Vivek Joshi	To head the committee setup by GOI to look into the demand for withdrawal of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act 'AFSPA' in Nagaland
Atul Kumar Goel	MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB)
Soma Sankara Prasad	MD & CEO of UCO Bank
IAS Praveen Kumar	Director General & Chief Executive Officer, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)
Radhika Jha	CEO of Energy Efficiency Services (EESL)
Vasudevan PN	MD and CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank
Vijay Raaz and Varun Sharma	Brand ambassadors of EaseMyTrip
Dr. Anupam Ray	India's Permanent Representative at UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva
Durga Shankar Mishra	New Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh
Chandra Prakash Goyal	Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary (DGF&SS), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change

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AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awards	Awardee
7 th Dr. M S Swaminathan Award for 2017-19	V Praveen Rao
4 th Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF (New India Foundation) Book Prize 2021	The book titled 'Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism'
'Asom Bhaibav' award, the highest civilian Assam state award for his contribution to cancer care in the state	Ratan Tata
Woman of the Year Award by the World Athletics	Anju Bobby Georg (Indian athlete)
Ciprian Foias Prize for the 'highly original work' in Operator Theory by the American Mathematical Society (AMS)	Nikhil Srivastava (Indian-American mathematician)
Global SME Finance Awards 2021	ESAF Small Finance Bank Limited
56 th Jnanpith Award	Nilmani Phookan Jr (Assamese poet)
57 th Jnanpith Award	Damodar Mauzo (Konkani novelist)
'Young Geospatial Scientist' award	Ropesh Goyal
2022 Royal Gold Medal by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)	Balkrishna Doshi (Indian architect)
2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra	Neena Gupta (Indian Mathematician)
Two DigiDhan awards from the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Karnataka Bank
10 th annual Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration	Azim Premji
ET BFSI Excellence Awards 2021 in two categories of 'Innovative API/Open Banking model' category and 'Best Digital Customer Experience initiative' category	DBS Bank India
SJFI (Sports Journalists Federation of India) Medal 2021	Sunil Gavaskar
Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2021	Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)
UN Women's Award for Leadership Commitment 2021 at the 2021 Regional Asia-Pacific Women's Empowerment Principles Awards Ceremony	Divya Hegde
Most Innovative Research Institutions category award by the CII	IIT Roorkee
Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2021	Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi (Environmentalist)
Digital Innovation of the Year Award at Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Awards 2021	O. P. Jindal Global University (JGU)
'Most Effective Bank-Fintech Partnership: Agile and Adaptable' award at the IBSi Global Fintech Innovation Awards 2021	Vayana Network and Federal Bank

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'Most innovative best practice' category award at the coveted Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Digital Transformation Award 2021	HDFC Bank
Sushila Devi Award 2021 for the Best Book of Fiction for her novel titled 'Kintsugi'	Anukruti Upadhyay
Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award 2021	Viral Sudhirbhai Desai (Industrialist)
'2021 Person of the Year' by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India	Alia Bhatt

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
1 st December 2021	World AIDS Day	--
1 st December 2021	57 th Raising Day of Border Security Force (BSF)	--
1 st December 2021	59 th Statehood Day of Nagaland	--
2 nd December 2021	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	--
2 nd December 2021	World Computer Literacy Day	--
2 nd December 2021	National Pollution Control Day	--
3 rd December 2021	International Day of Persons with disabilities	--
4 th December 2021	National Navy Day	Theme: 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' (50 years of India's victory in the Indo-Pakistan war, which took place in 1971)
4 th December 2021	International Day of Banks	--
5 th December 2021	International Volunteer Day (IVD) or International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development	Theme: Volunteer now for our common future
5 th December 2021	World Soil Day	--
6 th December 2021	Mahaparinirvana Divas	--
7 th December 2021	International Civil Aviation Day	Theme: 'Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development'
7 th December 2021	National Armed Forces Day or National flag day of India	--
8 th December to 14 th December 2021	Energy Conservation Week by Ministry of Power	--
9 th December 2021	International Anti-Corruption Day	Theme: 'Your right, your role: say no to corruption'
9 th December 2021	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of	--

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	the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime	
10 th December 2021	Human Rights Day	Theme: 'EQUALITY – Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights'
11 th December 2021	International Mountain Day	Theme: Sustainable mountain tourism
11 th December 2021	UNICEF Day	--
12 th December 2021	International Day of Neutrality	--
12 th December 2021	International Universal Health Coverage Day	Theme: 'Leave No One's Health Behind: Invest in health systems for all'
14 th December 2021	National Energy Conservation day	--
15 th December 2021	International Tea Day	--
16 th December 2021	50 th Vijay Diwas	--
18 th December 2021	World Arabic Language Day	Theme: The Arabic Language and Civilizational Communication
18 th December 2021	Minorities Rights Day	--
18 th December 2021	International Migrants Day	Theme: Harnessing the potential of human mobility
19 th December 2021	Goa Liberation Day	--
20 th December 2021	International Human Solidarity Day	--
20 th December to 25 th December 2021	Good Governance Week 2021	Theme: 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur'
22 nd December 2021	National Mathematics Day	--
23 rd December 2021	Kisan Diwas or National Farmers' Day	--
24 th December 2021	National Consumer Rights Day	--
25 th December 2021	Good Governance Day	--
27 th December 2021	International day for Epidemic Preparedness	--

MOUS SIGNED

SBI signed MoU with Usha International Limited

- The partnership will help to **uplift the social and economic status of women entrepreneurs in rural areas of India.**
- Both the entities will **make women self-reliant and will grant them equal opportunity to attain financial growth** and inclusion in their businesses.

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Walmart and Flipkart signed MoU with Madhya Pradesh

- They have signed MoU to create an ecosystem of capacity building for MSMEs in MP.
- The state's Department of MSME, Walmart, and Flipkart will help MSMEs to transform to digital domain so that they can sell their products across India through online retail platforms.

Paytm Signed MoU with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

- The MoU was signed to train 6000 individuals for a period of 3 years in the Fintech industry.
- The Paytm aims to build India's technology ecosystem which will drive financial inclusion in India.

ONGC Signed MoU with SECI

- The MoU was signed between Subhash Kumar, Chairman and Managing Director of ONGC and Suman Sharma, Managing Director of SECI.
- The ONGC has set the target to generate a minimum of 10 GW of renewable power by 2040.

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank Signed MoU with Liberty General Insurance

- As per the agreement, there will be the distribution of Liberty's general insurance products via network of KVGB.
- This partnership will help to enhance insurance penetration in the country through 629 branches of KVGB.

SBI signed MoU with Kendriya Sainik Board

- The MoU was signed to grant support and education to the children of war veterans, ex-servicemen, and war widows.
- Under the MoU, SBI will provide Rs 1,000 per month to 8,333 war veterans'.

BoB signed MoU with CHFL

- The MoU was signed to source and finance housing loan borrowers under Co-lending Model (CLM) mechanism.
- Due to this partnership, multiple opportunities are opened up for both entities to enhance their businesses.

India signed Air Bubble Agreement with Australia

- The agreement will enable the travel of eligible passengers between the two countries.
- The air bubble agreement is a process to resume flights between two nations with preconditions during pandemics.

Karnataka signed LoU with UNDP

- The LoU was signed as a part of the 'Code-Unnati', which is a State-level initiative.
- It was signed to enhance entrepreneurship and employment opportunities for the youths and women of the state.

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Defence Ministry signed MoU with IITE Gandhinagar

- This will help to **boost the capacity building of teachers of Sainik Schools** so that they can provide quality education to students learning in these schools.
- The MoU was also led to **enhancing the brand of existing Sainik Schools and will also generate a way to set up 100 Sainik Schools.**

Pact signed between JICA and TN Health Dept.

- The RoD was signed to **prevent and control Non-Communicable Diseases in the state.**
- The project for the same is termed as **'Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in Tamil Nadu project'.**

Rajasthan signed MoU with Rays Power Infra

- The **government of Rajasthan signed MoU with Rays Power Infra to construct a solar power plant** with the capacity to generate 500 MW of green electricity.
- The MoU will **work to develop an eco-friendly future in the energy sector.**

AP signed MoU with UN-FAO and ICAR

- The MoU was signed to **strengthen methods to support farmers in agriculture.**
- Various sustainable **agri-food systems will be framed and will be adopted** by the state in its agriculture sector.

India signed Lol with Vietnam

- The Lol was signed between **India's Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur, and Vietnam's Minister of Information and Communication, Nguyen Manh Hung.**
- Under the Lol, **both the nations will share information and experience in order to develop policies and regulatory norms in digital media and social networks domains.**

MCA signed MoU with Financial Intelligence Unit

- The MoU will impart significance in the **development of MCA21 Version 3 and FINNET 2.0.**
- The sharing of data between the entities will help **to improve regulatory and facilitating functions.**

NIPL signed MoU with Western Union

- The MoU was signed to **perform a real-time bank account payment system in India.**
- The NIPL is an **international payment arm of NPCI.**

HAL signed Contract with BEL

- The contract was signed to **develop and supply 20 types of systems for the 83 LCA (Light Combat Aircraft) Tejas Mk1A fighter aircraft program.**
- In this regard, the contract **worth Rs 2,400 crores were signed between both entities.**

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NCC signed MoU with NHAI

- The MoU was signed **to reuse plastic wastes collected by NCC Cadets during Puneet Sagar Abhiyan and other Swachhta activities.**
- The reuse will take place **for countrywide road construction which will be undertaken by NHAI.**

NITI Aayog signed Sol with UN-WFP

- The Sol was signed **to offer a focus on mainstreaming millets and offer support to India to have an exchange of information in the same.**
- The Sol was signed with the **consideration as 2023 will be celebrated** as the International Year of Millet.

India signed MoU with Maldives

- The MoU will also **facilitate trade between both countries as there will be an electronic exchange of data on a real-time basis.**
- This will **enable fast-track customs payments, identify and eradicate frauds in the same** and reduce the time for clearances.

SIDBI signed MoU with West Bengal

- The PMU will analyze **current strategies and frameworks of MSMEs in the state and will accordingly guide stakeholders** to develop sector-specific products.
- It will also develop an **expert agency in partnership with the MSME department of the state to execute the objectives of MoU.**

HOP Electric signed pact with Gov. of Rajasthan

- The MoU was signed **to expand its product portfolio and production capacity.**
- Under the MoU, an **EV manufacturing plant will be set up in Jaipur city of Rajasthan.**

Federal Bank signed MoU with Schwing Stetter

- The MoU was signed **to offer customized financial solutions to their customers.**
- The federal bank will also be able **to use advanced technology for enhancing customer experience through this partnership.**

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1st India Young Water Professional Programme

- The program is being held under the **National Hydrology Project which is a Central Scheme of the Department of Water Resources,** and River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.
- It is supported by the **Australian Water Partnership.**

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'Call your Cop' Mobile App

- The app will allow the people of the state to get in touch with the police directly with just a single click via the app.
- The app will also allow total modernization of the police department.

AIRNxt Programme

- The AIRNxt program will offer a platform for youth to air their voices as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- The youths from local colleges, universities can participate in the program and raise the topic and youth-centric shows for discussions.

SRESTHA Scheme

- The SRESTHA Scheme aims to uplift the socio-economic status and overall development of Scheduled Castes students.
- Under the scheme, quality residential education to meritorious SC students will be granted in reputed private schools.

ITU and DoT Conducted Joint Cyber Drill 2021

- The objective of the drill was to enhance cyber security and make India ready for various cyber security parameters and platforms.
- It also helped to enhance protection and incident response capability of India.

NGDRS and Banadhikar App

- The Tripura government launched National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) and BanAdhikar App.
- The BanAdhikar App is a GPS-based mobile app that will be used for forest patta land demarcation.

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated InFinity Forum

- The Indonesia, South Africa, and the U.K were the partner countries of the forum.
- At the event, PM Modi highlighted the role of fintech and also stated that these companies hold a major role in the future.

'She is a Changemaker'

- The programme was officially launched by Rekha Sharma, Chairperson of NCW in collaboration with Rhabhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, Thane, Maharashtra.
- The program aims to enhance the leadership skills and capacity building of women political leaders.

Swachh Technology Challenge

- The moto of the challenge to evolve entrepreneurial skills for country's waste management unit.

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- These skills will be utilized by **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** to implement various components of SBM-U 2.0.

'Milk Price Incentive Scheme'

- The scheme grants incentives to **around 53,000 people of the state**.
- Under the scheme, the **state government will spend Rs 444.62 crore which will be utilized** to open 500 milk sales centers.

Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme

- The 'Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar' scheme aims to **grant support to the artisans in the Northeast region**.
- Under the scheme, **financial assistance will be granted to the artisans in the form of term loans** for income-generating activities.

ADB approved Loan to Improve Urban Services in India

- In this regard, the ADB has approved a loan of **USD 350 million**.
- The loan will be utilized to **support various policies and schemes framed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** for enhancing universal coverage of piped water supply and improved sanitation in the urban areas of the country.

'LokpalOnline'—Digital Platform

- The name of the digital **Platform for the Management of Complaints** is 'LokpalOnline'.
- The platform can be **accessed by all citizens and they can file complaints on this from anywhere and anytime**.

'Unnati'- An e-learning platform

- The platform was launched under the '**YUVA**' scheme of the Delhi Police.
- The 'Unnati' is an **e-learning and certification initiative in which education and skill training** will be given to school dropouts from the weaker sections of society.

Maa Umiya Dham Development Project

- The total funds allotted to **construct the temple and other buildings** is Rs 1,500 crore.
- It will be constructed on **74,000 square yards of land**.

Jharkhand CM launched SAHAY Scheme

- The scheme aims to promote sports. It aims to **dissuade youths from joining ranks of rebels**.
- During the first phase, **72,000 young talents from rebel-hit districts will be given training** in particular sports.

Project AMBER

- The AMBER signifies '**Accelerated Mission for Better Employment and Retention**'.

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- It aims to fill the gap between skilling and employment.

'Khel Nursery Scheme 2022-23'

- The 'Khel Nursery Scheme 2022-23' was launched by Haryana's Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs, Sandeep Singh.
- These sports nurseries will be set up in government, private educational institutions, and private sports institutions.

'Mukhyamantri Vayu Swasthya Seva'-- Odisha

- The 'Mukhyamantri Vayu Swasthya Seva' means 'Chief Minister's Air Health Service'.
- Under the scheme, districts like Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, and Kalahandi will be able to avail better healthcare services.

Free Smartphone Yojana – Uttar Pradesh

- The Government of Uttar Pradesh will be launching an ambitious 'Free Smartphone Yojana'.
- Under the scheme, the state government will distribute smartphones and tablets to the students studying in the final year of graduation and above.

Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP)

- Under this program, innovators and entrepreneurs will be given access to the innovation ecosystem in 22 scheduled languages by GOI.
- To have an exceptional capacity for the VIP, Vernacular Task Force (VTF) in each of the 22 scheduled languages will be developed by AIM.

Chalo Mobile Application and Chalo Smart Cards - Maharashtra

- The Chalo mobile app will help passengers to purchase online bus tickets. They will also be able to gain access to bus passes through an e-wallet.
- The app will also deliver information about how crowded the vehicle is and the arrival time of the bus at various bus stops.

'Meendum Manjappai' Scheme

- The scheme aims to promote the usage of cloth bags among people and ban the use of plastic bags as they are harmful to the environment.
- The scheme motivates people to use 'yellow' cloth bag or 'manjapai' as it is called in the Tamil language.

PM Modi inaugurated Kanpur Metro Rail Project

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Kanpur Metro Rail Project and Bina-Panki Multiproduct Pipeline Project.
- Along with this, he also attended the 54th Convocation Ceremony at IIT Kanpur.

DEFENCE

EKuverin-21

- The Ekuverin-21 joint military exercise aims **to enhance synergy and inter-operability between the Armed Forces of both the nations.**
- The participants **conducted Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency Operations.**

PANEX-21

- The PANEX-21 is a **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise** that is conducted for BIMSTEC nations.
- The exercise was organized at the **College of Military Engineering in Pune.**

DRDO conducted Flight Test of HEAT 'Abhyas'

- The test was conducted from **Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off the Odisha coast.**
- In the test activities, a **high subsonic speed trajectory at a very low altitude with high endurance** was demonstrated.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India Flight Tested 'Pralay' Missile

- The 'Pralay' missile is developed by **Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO).**
- It is a **solid-fuel, battlefield missile and is based on Prithvi Defence Vehicle** from the Indian ballistic missile program.

James Webb Space Telescope

- It was launched by **boarding on Ariane 5 rocket.** It was launched from Guiana Space Center in Kourou, French Guiana.
- It weighs **14,000-pound and will take a one-month duration to reach** its destination in the solar orbit.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

5th Indian Ocean Conference

- The 5th Indian Ocean Conference was addressed by **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar in Abu Dhabi.**
- While addressing he **highlighted the importance of respecting and facilitating freedom of navigation and overflight.**

India – Russia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

- The dignitaries discussed about **political and defence issues of mutual interest.**

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- The dialogue also helped to enhance strategic partnership between the two countries.

PM Modi attended Summit for Democracy

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 'Summit for Democracy' in a virtual manner.
- He highlighted India's civilizational ethos which is the original source of democracy.

PM Modi inaugurated All India Mayors' Conference

- The conference aims to serve the goal of GOI to ensure ease of living in urban areas of the country.
- It is being held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, and was organized by the Department of Urban Development of Uttar Pradesh.

6th India Water Impact Summit 2021

- At the event, MoU was signed between NMCG and the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) to work in the research domain to develop production activities to rejuvenate India's rivers.
- MoU was signed between C-Ganga and the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) for having a sludge management framework.

National Conf. on Investment Opportunities in Highways, Transport, Logistics

- The National Conference on Investment Opportunities in Highways, Transport, and Logistics was held recently in Mumbai.
- Various MoUs were signed at the conference in the presence of the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Nitin Gadkari.